

NASA

BRAYTON CYCLE

3.2-INCH RADIAL COMPRESSOR
PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

N66 29906

FACILITY FORM 602	(ACCESSION NUMBER)	(THRU)
	130	
	(PAGES)	
	CR-54968	
	(NASA CR OR TMX OR AD NUMBER)	
	(CODE)	O3
	(CATEGORY)	

prepared for

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Contract NAS3-6463

GPO PRICE \$ _____

CFSTI PRICE(S) \$ _____

Hard copy (HC) 4.00

Microfiche (MF) 1.00

653 July 65



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BRAYTON CYCLE
3.2-INCH RADIAL COMPRESSOR
PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

prepared for
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
by
AiResearch Manufacturing Company of Arizona
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May 1966

Contract NAS3-6463

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FORWARD

This report describes the evaluation program conducted by the AiResearch Manufacturing Company of Arizona, a division of The Garrett Corporation, on Contract NAS3-6463, Brayton Cycle 3.2-inch Radial Compressor Performance Evaluation for the Lewis Research Center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The objective of the program is to determine the performance characteristics of a small radial compressor operating at high speed over a wide compressor Reynolds number range.



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PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

SUMMARY

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A test program was undertaken to determine the overall and component efficiencies of an existing compressor stage (3.2 inch diameter impeller) over a wide range of Reynolds numbers. A redesigned diffuser was also tested to determine design capability in improving peak performance at low compressor inlet pressure conditions. Results indicate that although the diffuser efficiency was slightly increased at the lower Reynolds numbers, some improvement could also be noted at all pressure levels. Reasonable correlation is obtainable for stage efficiency versus Reynolds number.

The program confirmed that it is possible to predict the performance of a given compressor geometry in one fluid from data taken in another fluid.

Test results indicate that an improvement in the art of temperature sensing, at low fluid flows and pressures, is desired.

Cuthar



INTRODUCTION

The NASA-Lewis Research Center is currently engaged in an investigation of Brayton-cycle space-power systems that use solar or nuclear energy as the heat source and an inert gas as the working fluid. Optimum Brayton-cycle systems with output powers above 10 kw_e have reasonable turbomachinery designs with nominal cycle pressures. However, the low power systems require low compressor inlet pressures. The effect of low Reynolds numbers on radial-flow compressor performance was not well established, as with axial flow compressors, and required further evaluation in order to achieve better predictability criteria.

Results of performance tests on Brayton-cycle compressors with nominal inlet pressures have shown that high efficiencies (up to 80 percent total-to-total) can be obtained. However, with the same test hardware utilized at low inlet pressures, test results indicate that efficiencies are reduced due to the Reynolds number effects. Consideration was given to the generation of a new diffuser, designed specifically for the lower Reynolds number range. The ability to design a diffuser for low Reynolds number operation was subject to some doubt. Actual design and test would thus demonstrate this capability.

An advantage of the Brayton cycle is the flexibility of testing the turbomachinery on air and, with the air performance results, predicting the performance that would be achieved on an inert gas such as argon. Prediction procedures based on matching velocity triangles at the inducer and vane diffuser inlet have been established and verified by test results with compressors at nominal inlet pressures. Verification of the performance prediction procedures has not been accomplished with low compressor inlet pressures (down to 2 psia).



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Therefore a two-part test program was undertaken, the first to determine the effects of Reynolds number on the performance of a given compressor configuration and the second, to determine if improvements in performance in the low Reynolds number range could be achieved by designing the diffuser for this range. The tests were to be conducted by utilizing an existing 3.2-inch diameter radial compressor assembly, previously evaluated under Air Force Contract AF33(657)-11721.

The Compressor Assembly Part 369740, and two additional Diffusers, Parts 369748-10 and -20, were authorized for use in the program as required. As part of the program, a new Diffuser Part 87103⁴ was designed and fabricated for low range evaluation.

The design characteristics of the test compressor as received were:

Inlet pressure, psia	31
Inlet temperature, °R	540
Speed, rpm	64,000
Argon flow rate, lbs per sec.	1.216
Pressure ratio	2.06
Impeller outside diameter, inches	3.2



PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Testing with Existing Hardware

With the use of the existing impeller, diffuser, and scroll, performance tests were to be conducted using air as the working fluid at inlet pressures of 24.0, 15.0, 7.0, 4.0, and 2.0 psia each at shaft speeds of 70, 80, 90, and 100 percent of design speed. A minimum of 7 data points were to be observed at each combination of speed and inlet pressure. Check runs with argon as the working fluid were to be conducted at an equivalent design speed and inlet pressures of 24.0, 15.0, and 7.0 psia each at weight flows corresponding to surge, peak efficiency, and choke.

The compressor was to be instrumented so that at least three values of static and total pressures, and total temperatures at the inlet and discharge could be measured. In addition, one diffuser passage was to be instrumented so that a performance breakdown between the impeller, diffuser, and scroll could be estimated.

The air performance data at the five pressure levels was to be utilized to calculate the equivalent performance in argon. The validity of the performance predictions was to be checked by comparing the argon data with the computed argon performance.

Low Reynolds Number Diffuser

A new diffuser, optimized for the Reynolds number corresponding to a 4 psia inlet pressure, was to be designed and fabricated. One flow passage of the new diffuser was to be instrumented to provide diffuser data so that a performance breakdown between the impeller, diffuser, and scroll could be provided.



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Testing with the new diffuser was to be identical with the testing outlined for the existing hardware except that the argon check runs were to be performed at compressor inlet pressures of 15.0 and 7.0 psia only.

NOMENCLATURE

CPR	Coefficient of pressure recovery = $\frac{P_{S_3} - P_{S_2}}{P_2 - P_{S_2}}$
D _T	Impeller tip diameter, inches
N	Physical shaft speed, rpm = 64,000 for air 62,000 for argon
	N/ $\sqrt{\theta}$ = 62,745 for air testing 60,783 for argon testing
P	Pressure, psia or in. Hg Abs. as noted
r _c	Compressor pressure ratio = P ₃ /P ₁
Re	Compressor Reynolds number = $\frac{\rho_1 U_T D_T}{12\mu}$
ΔT	Impeller temperature rise, °F
T	Total temperature, °R
U _T	Impeller tip speed, ft. per sec.
W	Weight flow rate, lbs. per sec.
θ	Flow angle measured from the radial direction, degrees
γ	Ratio of specific heats = 1.395 for air 1.666 for argon
δ	P/14.696
θ	T/518.7
μ	Gas viscosity, lbs per ft-sec.
ρ	Gas density, lbs per cu. ft.



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$$\eta_C \quad \text{Compressor efficiency} = \frac{r_c^{\frac{\gamma-1}{\gamma}} - 1}{\left(\frac{\Delta T}{T_1}\right)_{\text{actual}}}$$

$$\eta_D \quad \text{Diffuser efficiency} = \frac{\left(\frac{P_{S_3}}{P_{S_2}}\right)^{\frac{\gamma-1}{\gamma}} - 1}{\frac{T_{S_3}}{T_{S_2}} - 1}$$

Subscripts

¹ Compressor inlet conditions

² Diffuser inlet conditions

³ Diffuser - scroll exit conditions

is Isentropic

s Static conditions



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APPARATUS, INSTRUMENTATION, AND PROCEDURE

Figure 1 shows the existing compressor scroll and diffuser, together with the impeller mounted in the ball-bearing test package. Components of the entire test package are shown in Figure 2.

Compressor tests were conducted using a closed loop with both air and argon test fluids. The test system, located at the AiResearch test facilities in Phoenix, Arizona, is shown in Figure 3 during installation and in Figure 4 with the compressor installed and the loop insulated.

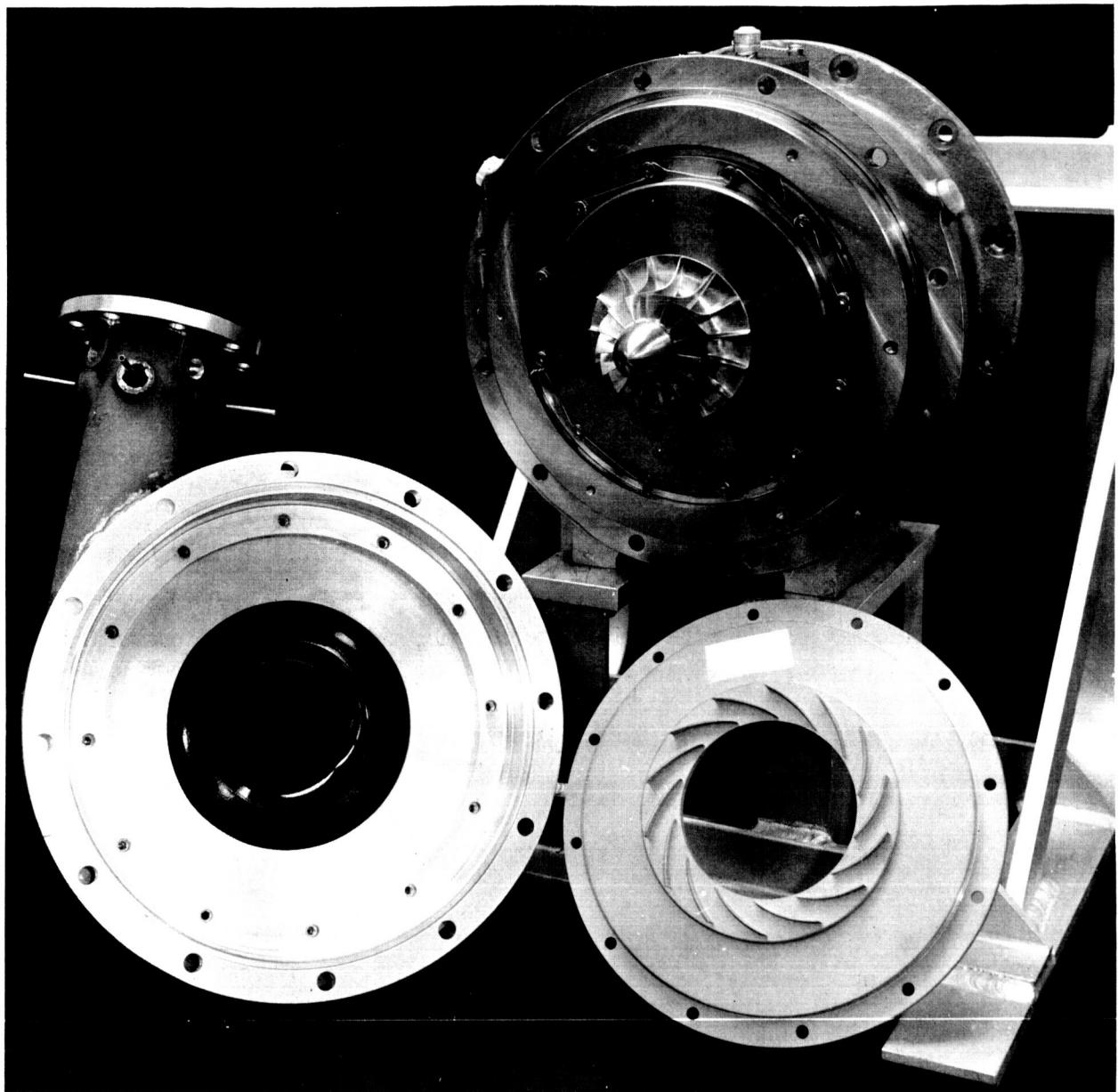
The loop is fabricated from stainless steel tubing of a nominal 4-inch diameter with appropriate transitions to the inlet and discharge of the compressor and other components in the loop. Welded joints were used throughout with the exception of flanged joints at the compressor and motorized control valve.

The components of the loop consisted of:

1. Measuring orifice section
2. Motorized valve
3. Filter
4. Vacuum pump
5. Compressor
6. Drive turbine
7. Heat exchanger (cooler)
8. Cooling turbine and heat exchanger
9. Instrumentation



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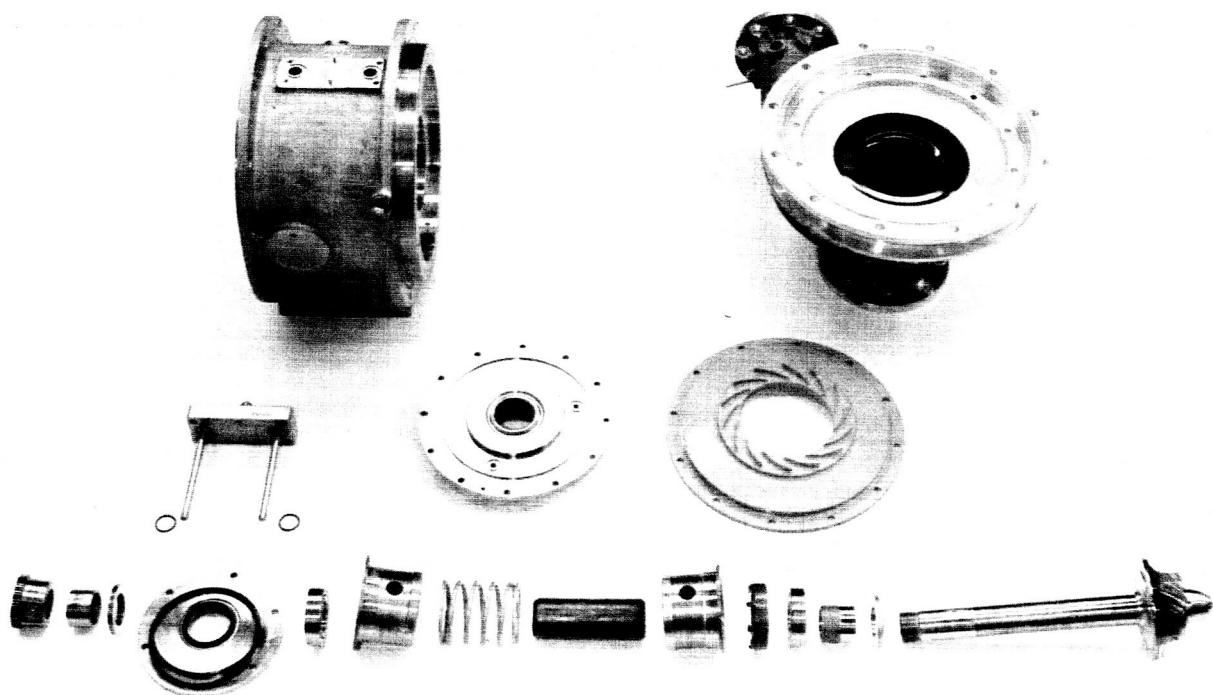


EXISTING RESEARCH COMPRESSOR PACKAGE
FIGURE 1

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RESEARCH COMPRESSOR PACKAGE COMPONENTS

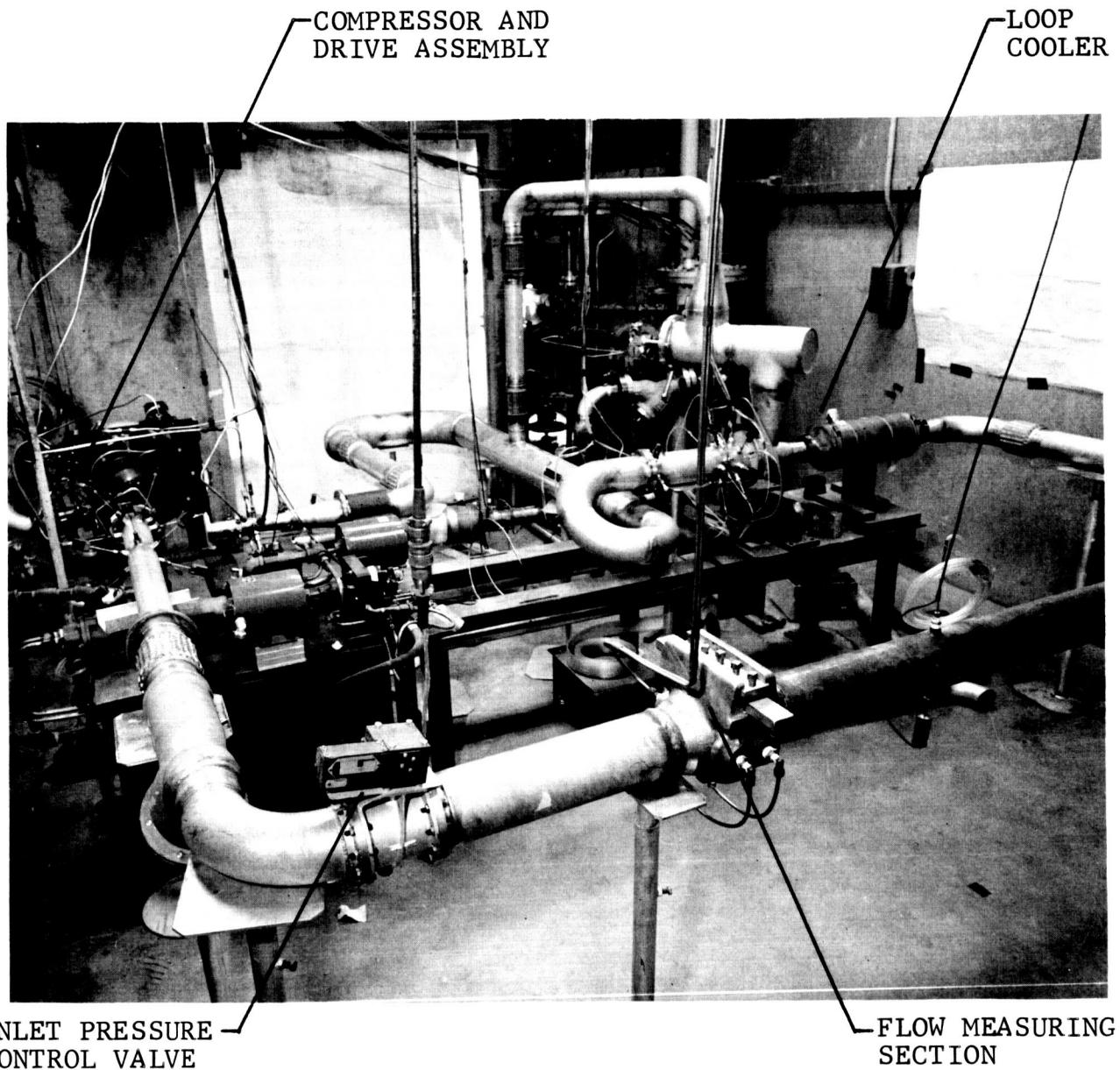
FIGURE 2

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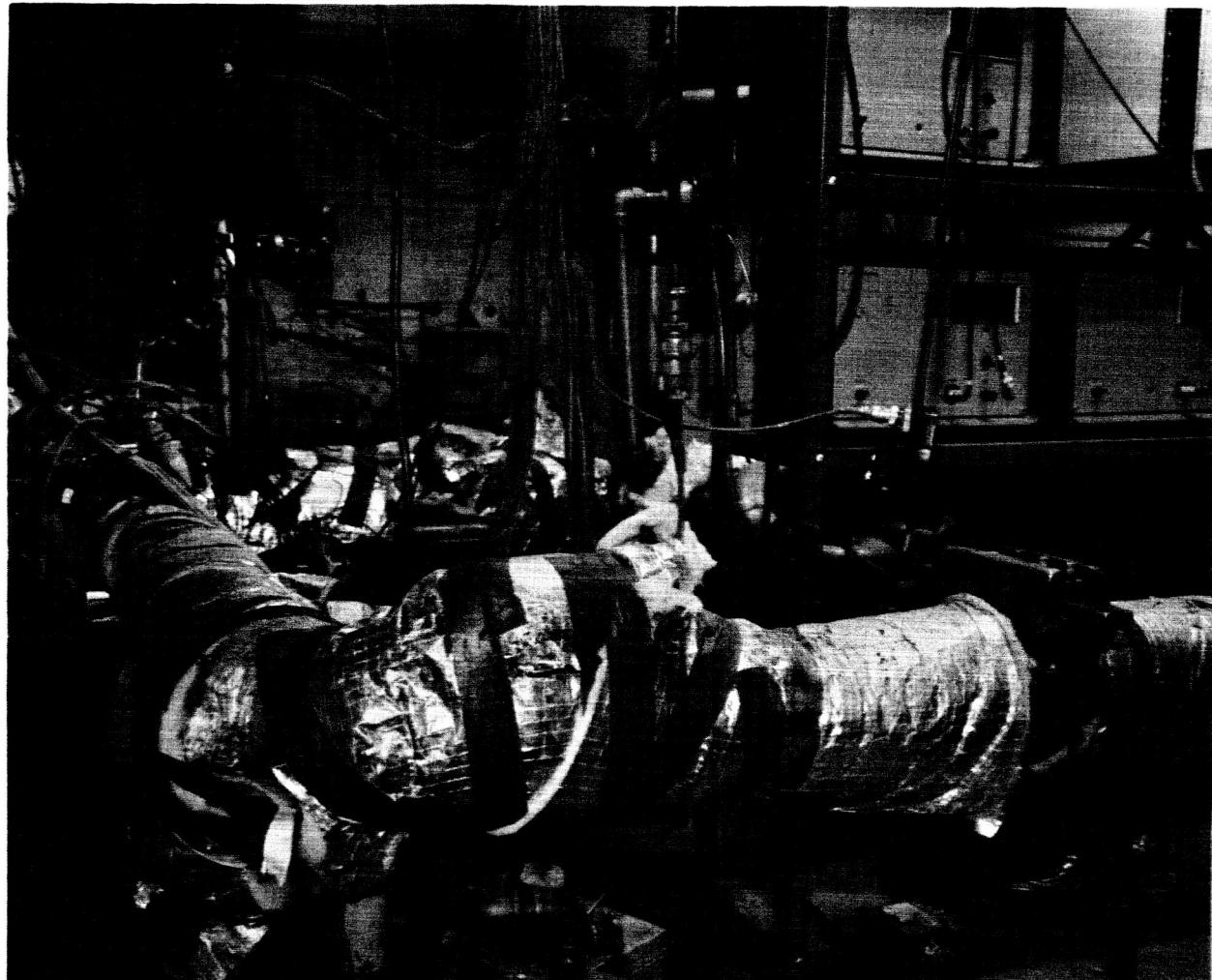
CLOSED BRAYTON-CYCLE TURBOMACHINERY TEST LOOP

FIGURE 3

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COMPRESSOR TEST LOOP WITH
COMPRESSOR INSTALLED AND LOOP INSULATED

FIGURE 4

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A 4-inch measuring section was used with a range of orifice plates in order to maintain a reasonably constant pressure drop as flows were varied during the tests.

The motorized valve was used to control the pressure ratio across the test compressor and set each test condition.

The filter was used as a precaution against the induction of any particle which might damage the impeller blades. The filter body was also the station for evacuation of the loop by the vacuum pump.

The vacuum pump was used to purge the loop of air and to control the pressure level of the argon during the test. (As the pressure ratio of the compressor was varied, the loop pressures would change, which would require the addition or removal of gas to maintain a constant compressor inlet pressure.)

The compressor under test was installed in the loop by use of flanged joints. Such an arrangement permitted the easy removal of the compressor from the loop for changes of the diffuser. The compressor and inlet and discharge ducting were insulated with 1 inch of foil-backed Fiberglas during all testing to facilitate accurate temperature-rise measurement.

The compressor was driven through a quill shaft by an air turbine motor. The speed of the turbine was controlled by a pneumatically controlled valve installed in the plant air system.



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A water-cooled gas heat-exchanger was installed in the loop to control the compressor inlet gas temperature. Motorized valves on the water side of the heat exchanger permitted control of the compressor inlet gas temperature to within $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{F}$.

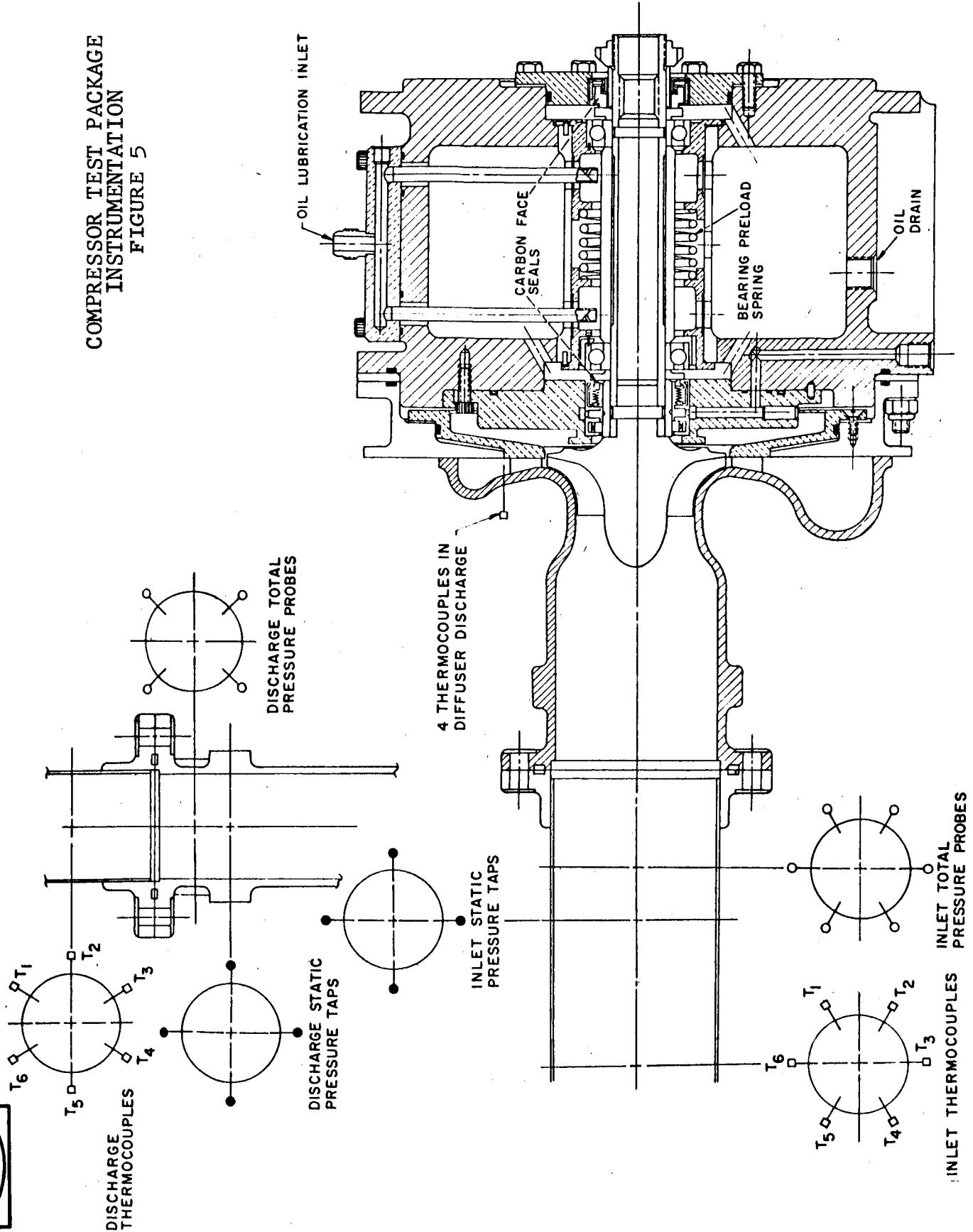
At compressor flows and pressure ratios where full flow of the plant water supply would not control the loop gas temperature to the desired values, chilled water from a second air-to-water heat exchanger was piped through the loop heat exchanger. The water was chilled by air from an air-driven cooling turbine.

The basic compressor instrumentation consisted of thermocouples, static pressure taps, and total pressure probes in the inlet and discharge of the compressor. The location and number of this instrumentation can be seen in Figure 5. In addition, static pressure taps and total pressure probes were installed in one compressor diffuser passage so that diffuser performance could be evaluated. A total of 4 thermocouples were also installed at four locations in the diffuser discharge. The location and number of this instrumentation is shown in Figures 5 and 6. The remaining data to be measured consisted of total pressure, temperature, and orifice ΔP at the closed loop orifice section and shaft speed of the compressor. All data was recorded on a Systron Digital Recorder system.

The compressor inlet duct contained six chromel-alumel thermocouples with duct immersions given in Table I. Five of these thermocouples were connected to an AiResearch designed Temperature Scanner device which sensed each temperature and relayed a millivolt signal to the digital recorder. The sixth thermocouple was connected to the test cell Brown indicator to permit control of the compressor inlet temperature by the test technician.



COMPRESSOR TEST PACKAGE
INSTRUMENTATION
FIGURE 5

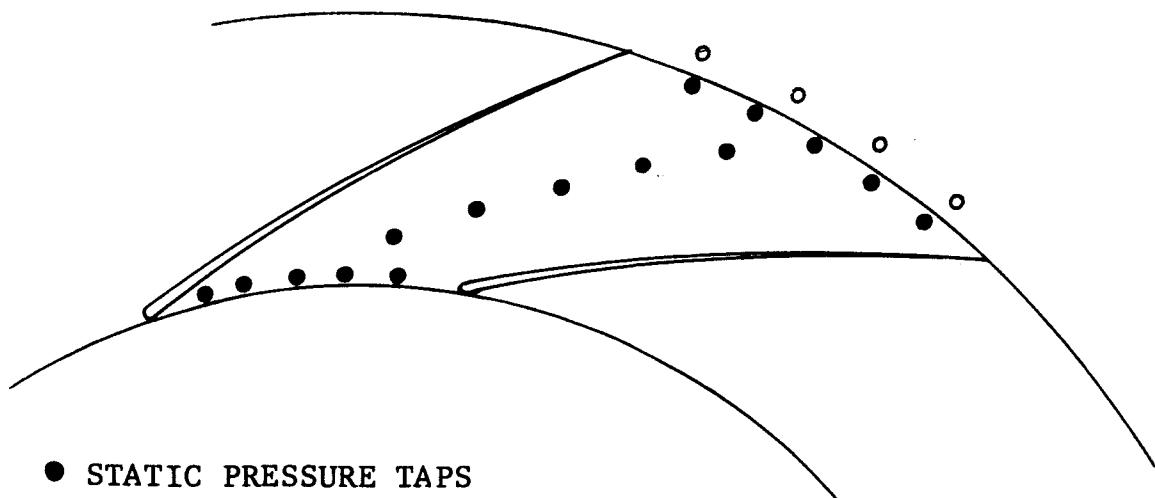
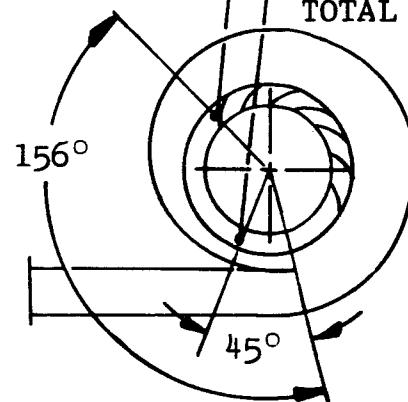




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OLD DIFFUSER INSTRUMENTATION
SEVENTH PASSAGE FROM TANG
TOTAL OF 15 PASSAGES

NEW DIFFUSER INSTRUMENTATION
THIRD PASSAGE FROM TANG
TOTAL OF 16 PASSAGES



- STATIC PRESSURE TAPS
- TOTAL PRESSURE PROBES

DIFFUSER PASSAGE INSTRUMENTATION
TYPICAL BOTH DIFFUSERS
AS NOTED

FIGURE 6

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TABLE I
THERMOCOUPLE IMMERSION DEPTHS

INLET DUCT

Thermocouple	Depth (Inch)
1 MANUAL ON PANEL	0.09
2	0.36
3	0.82
4	0.09
5	0.36
6	0.82

DISCHARGE DUCT

Thermocouple	Depth (Inch)
1 MANUAL ON PANEL	0.41
2	0.27
3	0.55
4	0.41
5	0.27
6	0.55



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Four static pressure taps in the inlet duct were manifolded together and the average static pressure was routed to an AiResearch Pressure Scanner device which relayed a millivolt signal to the digital recorder. Six total pressure probes in the inlet duct were individually connected to the Pressure Scanner device. In addition, a separate differential pressure transducer was connected between the manifolded static pressures and one of the total pressure probes to provide a ΔP measurement to the digital recorder.

The compressor diffuser and scroll were instrumented for both static and total pressures. The diffuser was instrumented to provide 15 static pressures between adjoining blades, and 4 total pressures and 4 temperatures at the outer radius of the diffuser passage as shown in Figures 5 and 6. Two separate sets of diffuser instrumentation were provided: for the reference diffuser (Part 369738-20, 31-psia design), and the new diffuser (Part 871034, 4-psia design).

The compressor discharge duct contained 4 static pressure taps manifolded together and 4 total pressure probes individually connected to the Pressure Scanner. The delta pressure between the manifolded static pressures and one total pressure port was measured by a separate differential pressure transducer. All pressure measurements were recorded by the digital recorder.

As in the compressor inlet duct, six chromel-alumel thermocouples were installed in the compressor discharge duct. Five were connected to the temperature scanner device and the sixth to the test cell Brown indicator. Thermocouple immersion depths are shown in Table I.



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A differential pressure transducer with a range of 0-50 inches of water was used at the loop orifice plate to measure the orifice pressure drop. Accuracy of this transducer was within $\pm 1/2$ percent of full scale. Repeatability was consistent as displayed by the choke flows recorded. The transducer output was recorded by the digital recorder.

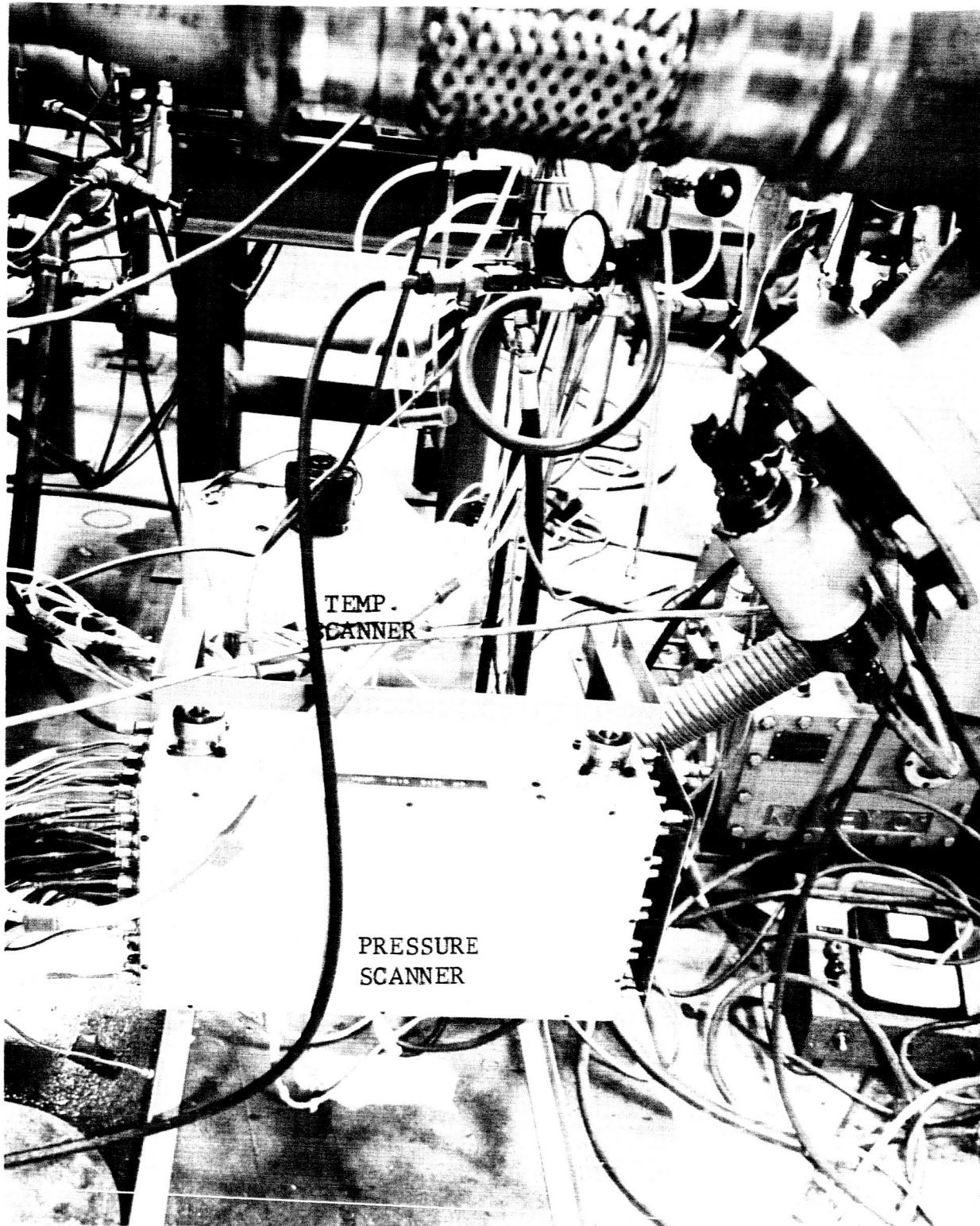
The pressure scanner valve device consisted of a 50 port Scanivalve (shown in Figure 7) which incorporates an absolute pressure zero to 150 in. Hg pressure transducer. An accurate calibration of this item is shown in Figure 34.

Pressure measurements were accurate to within 0.04-inch mercury and were in reference to a secondary standard mercurial barometer corrected for temperature and geographic location. The automatic solenoid-operated Scanivalve samples each test pressure on command from the digital recorder technician and delivers a millivolt signal to the recorder for each pressure sensed. The volume of the valve and transducer is so minute that no error is introduced in stepping from one pressure to another.

The temperature scanner device, also shown in Figure 7, consists of an automatic, solenoid-operated rotary switch connected between the digital recorder and each thermocouple in the test set-up. The scanner device contains a constant 150°F oil bath junction, in which all chromel-alumel thermocouple leads are connected to copper leads, creating two additional secondary thermocouples. These secondary thermocouples, immersed in a constant (150 $\pm 0.1^{\circ}$ F) oil bath, generate zero-millivolt output when the thermocouple is also at 150°F, but create a negative-millivolt output when the thermocouple is less than 150°F and a positive millivolt output when the thermocouple is higher than 150°F. The output of each thermocouple circuit is delivered to the digital recorder at the command of the recorder technician. The 150°F bath provides a continuous calibration for each scan of temperatures.



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PRESSURE AND TEMPERATURE SCANNERS

FIGURE 7

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The specially designed scanner valves were used for proper sequencing of the instrument signals to the digital recorder. This method greatly improves accuracy in data recording. Several complete scans of all the instrumentation can be made in a fraction of the time required for a single manual readout; thus, human error is minimized. Furthermore, set data-point conditions need not be held as long to get a complete reading, and the errors due to loop transients are reduced.



COMPRESSOR TESTING

Performance mapping of the subject compressor was conducted in two phases. In Phase I, the original compressor design (Assembly Part 369740 and utilizing Diffuser Part 369748-20) was tested in air at impeller inlet total pressures of 2, 4, 7, 15, and 24 psia. At each pressure level, data was obtained at 100 percent, 90 percent, 80 percent and 70 percent of design physical speed (64,000 rpm) with the impeller inlet total temperature held constant at 540°R.

Following the air testing, partial mapping of the unit was conducted in argon with impeller inlet pressures of 7, 15, and 24 psia at a fixed physical speed of 62,000 rpm which was determined to be the approximate equivalent design speed in argon in accordance with AiResearch velocity triangle matching procedures for estimating argon performance from air data. In the argon mapping, a minimum of the choke, surge and approximate peak overall efficiency points were obtained for each of the three pressure levels investigated.

For each data point the following data was obtained:

- Barometric pressure in test cell
- Impeller inlet static pressure
- Impeller inlet total pressure
- Impeller exit static pressure (measured at the diffuser inlet)
- Diffuser static pressure distribution (measured along diffuser mean line)
- Diffuser exit static pressure
- Diffuser exit total pressure
- Scroll exit static pressure



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Compressor exit total pressure
(measured at scroll exit)
Impeller inlet total temperature
Compressor exit total temperature
Flow orifice inlet total pressure
Flow orifice AP
Flow orifice inlet total temperature
Rotational speed

Details concerning the type, number, and exact location of all instrumentation are given in the previous section.

A complete set of data was recorded on digital output tapes with a minimum of two scans of all data taken at each data point.

Plots of the overall performance resulting from Phase I air testing are presented in Figures 8 through 12. On each plot for a fixed inlet pressure, the recorded overall total pressure ratio, total temperature rise, and overall efficiency based on temperature rise are shown. (The dashed lines shown on some of these maps will be discussed later.)

A breakdown of the impeller efficiency, diffuser plus scroll efficiency, diffuser pressure recovery, and diffuser inlet flow angles is given for the air 100 percent speed line for each pressure level in Figure 13 through 17. Definitions of all terms can be found on page 4.

Because of the physical difficulty of installing total pressure probes between the impeller and diffuser, it was necessary to calculate the total pressure at the diffuser inlet. This can be accomplished with good accuracy by assuming a reasonable value for the

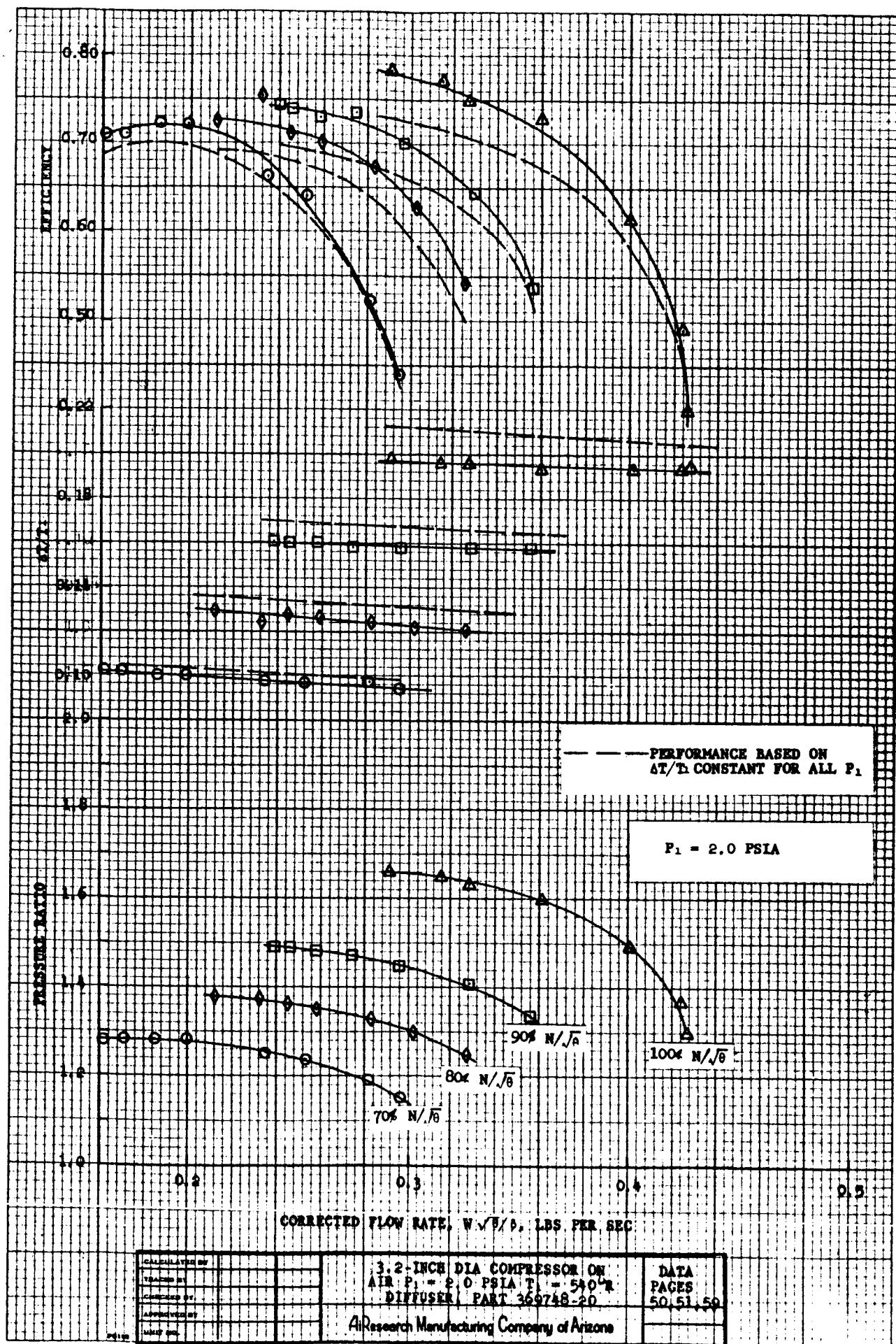


FIGURE 8
APS-5211-R
Page 23

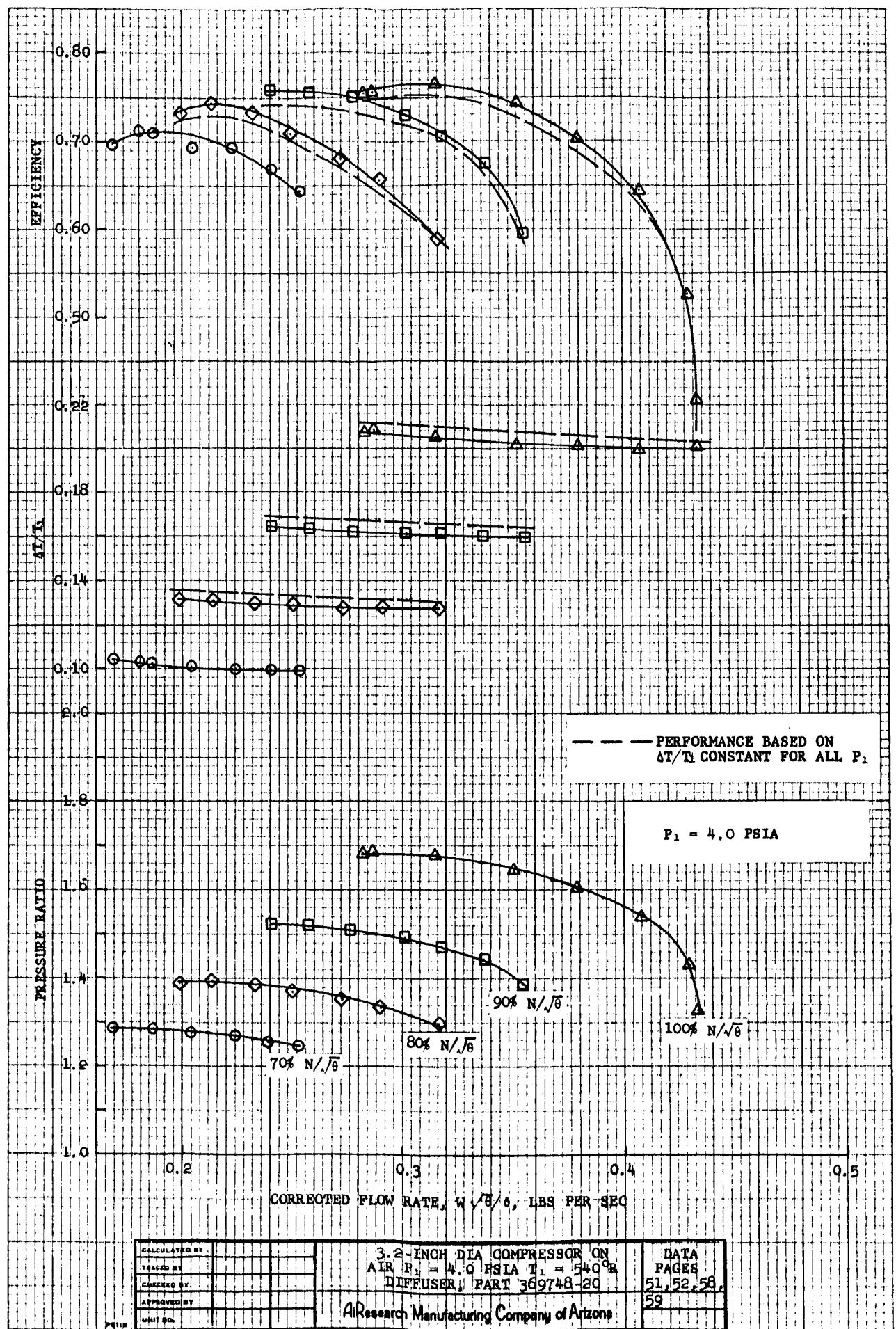


FIGURE 9
APS-5211-R
Page 24

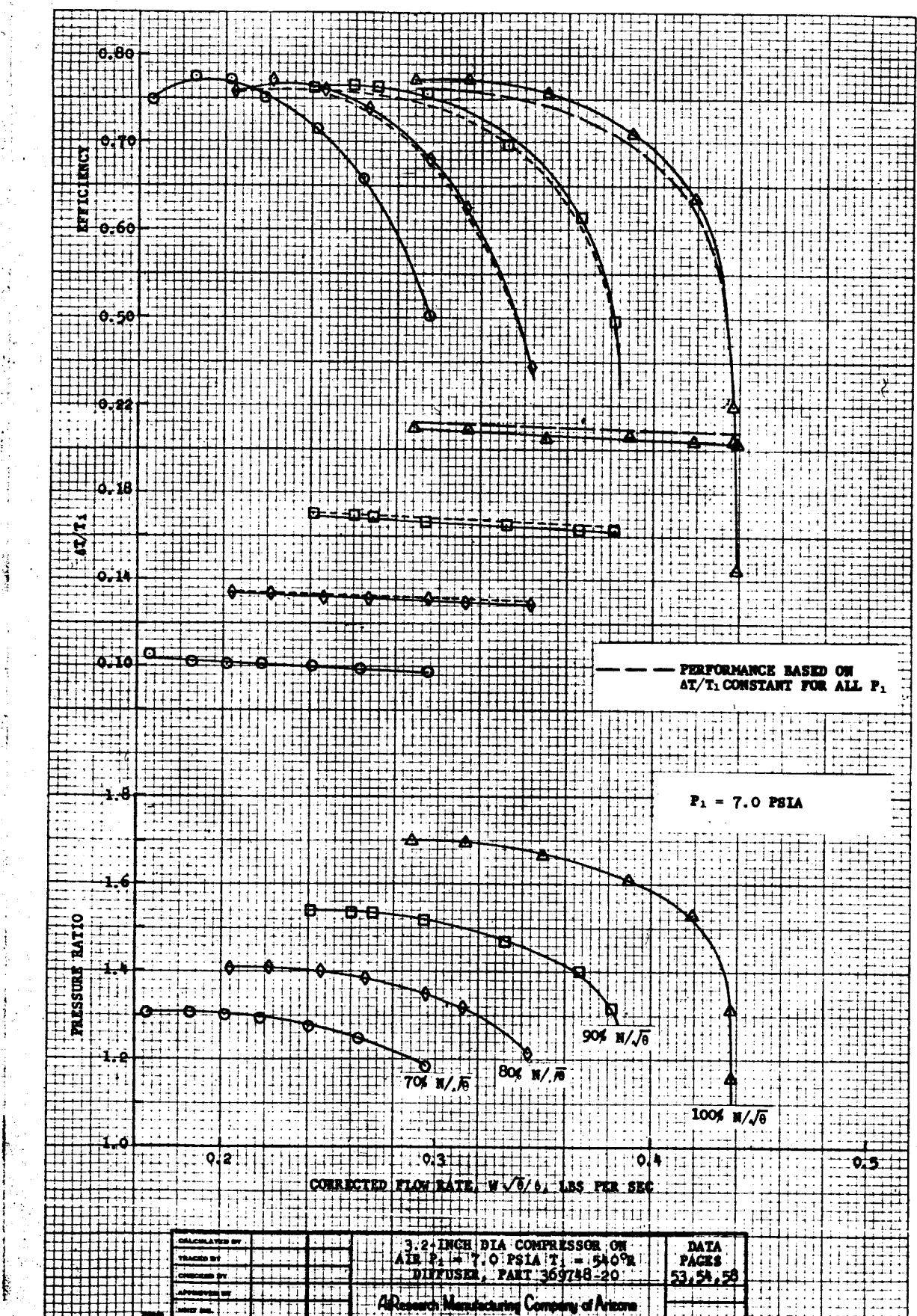


FIGURE 10
APS-5211-R
Page 25

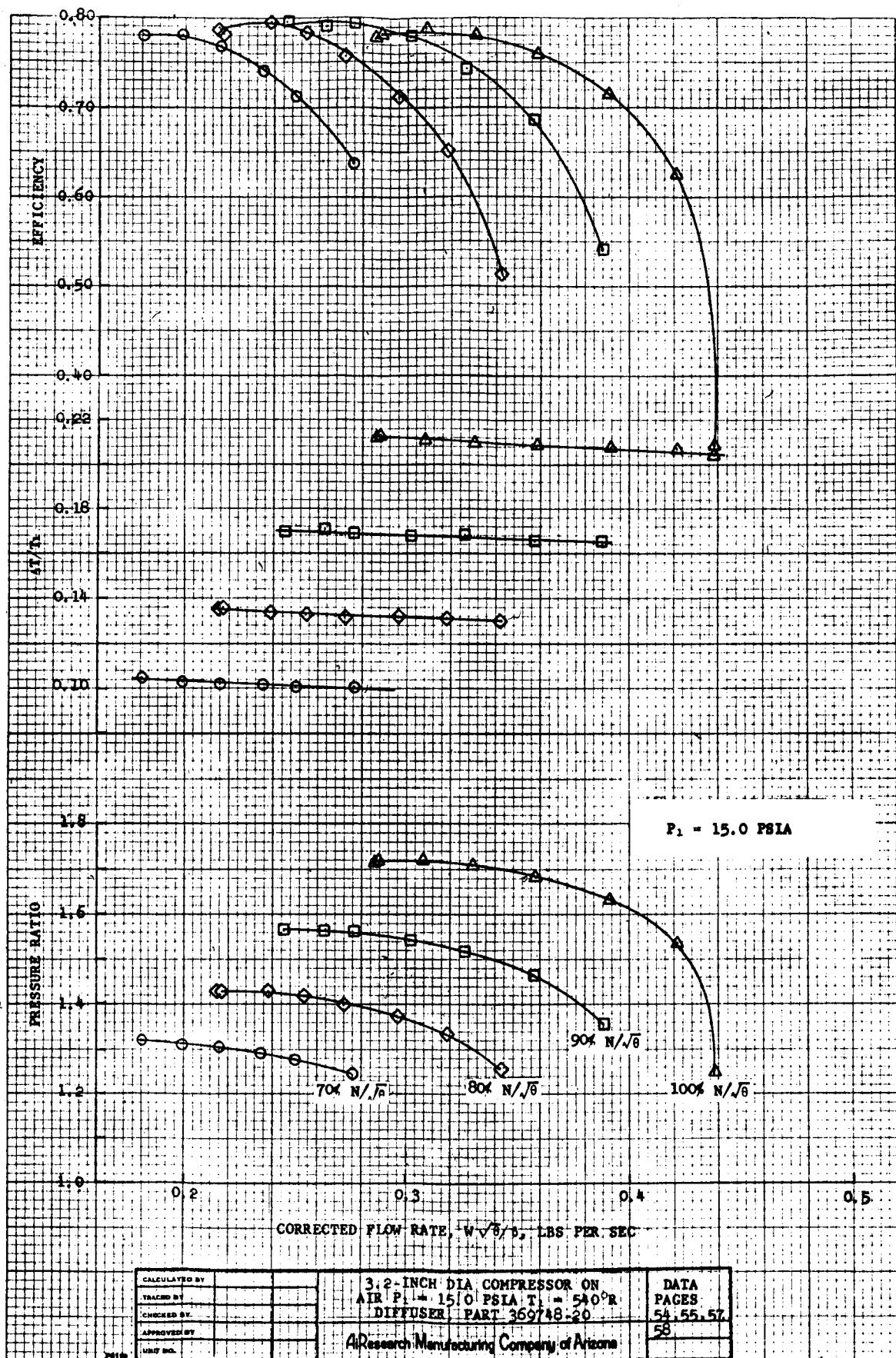


FIGURE 11

APS-5211-R

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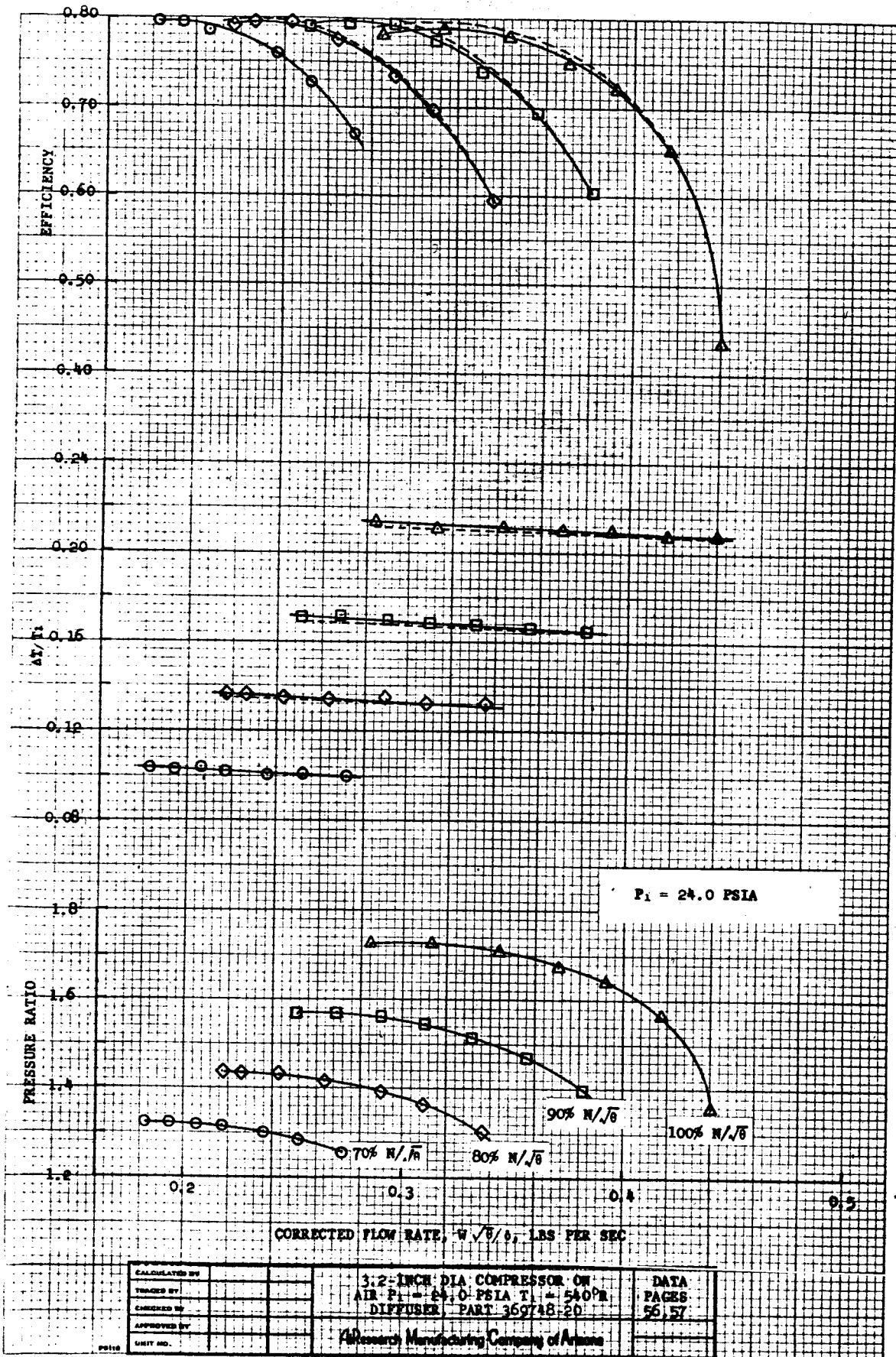
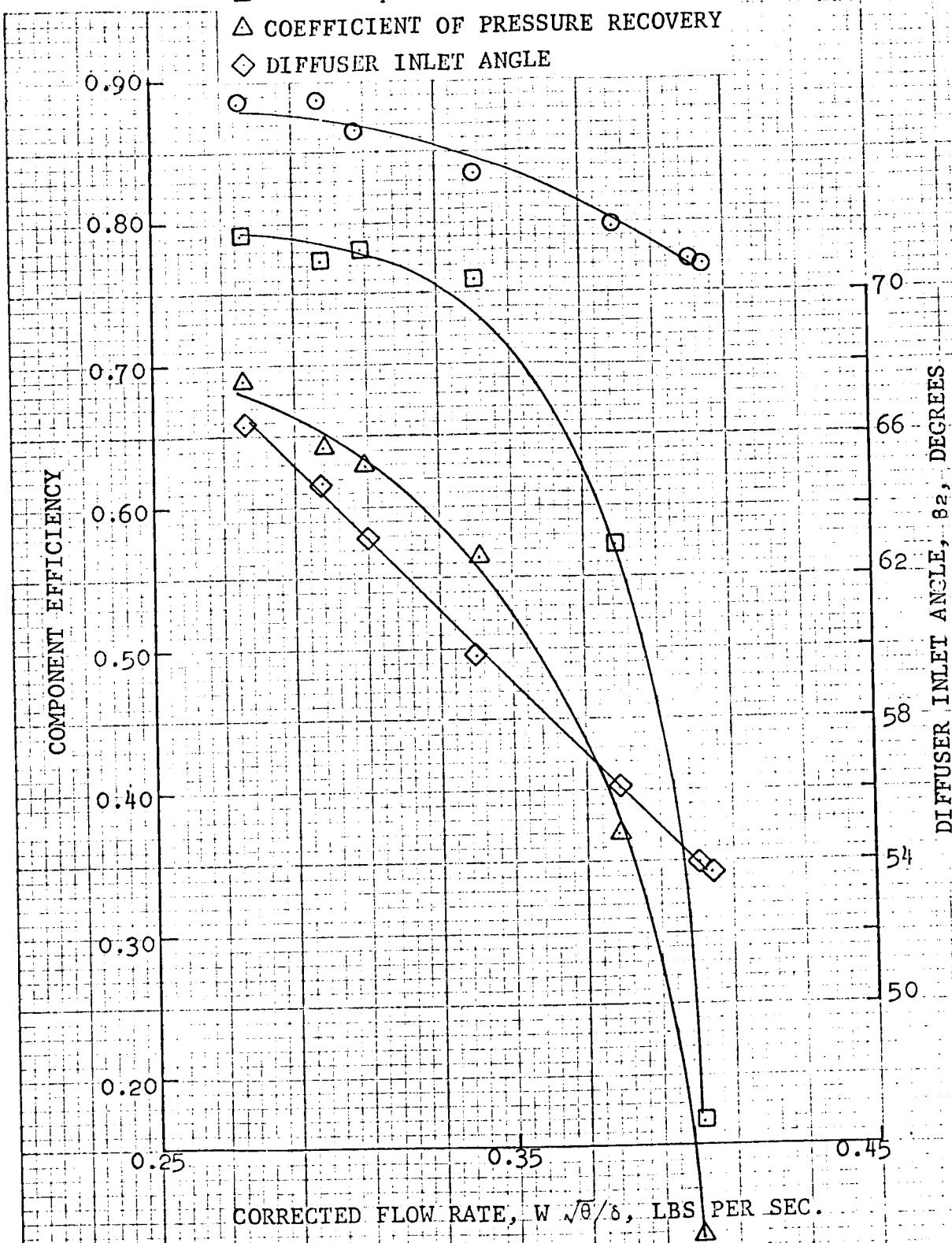


FIGURE 12

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Page 27

- IMPELLER EFFICIENCY
- DIFFUSER-SCROLL EFFICIENCY
- △ COEFFICIENT OF PRESSURE RECOVERY
- ◇ DIFFUSER INLET ANGLE



CALCULATED BY			3.2-INCH DIAMETER COMPRESSOR ON AIR	N/V=100
TRACED BY			P ₁ = 2 PSIA T ₁ = 540°R	DATA PAGE
CHECKED BY			DIFFUSER PART 369748-20	59
APPROVED BY				
UNIT NO.			AiResearch Manufacturing Company of Arizona	

FIGURE 13

APS-5211-R
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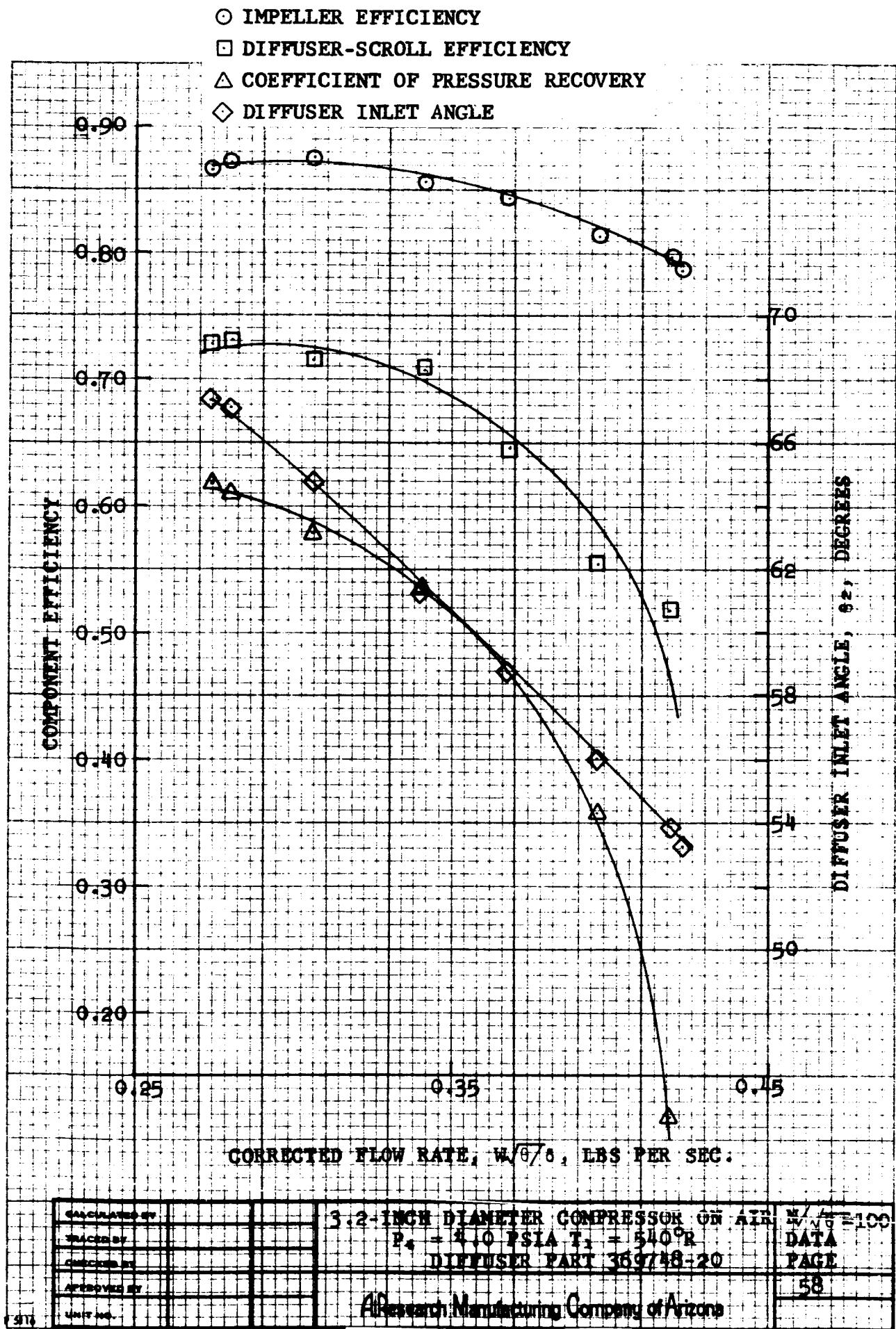
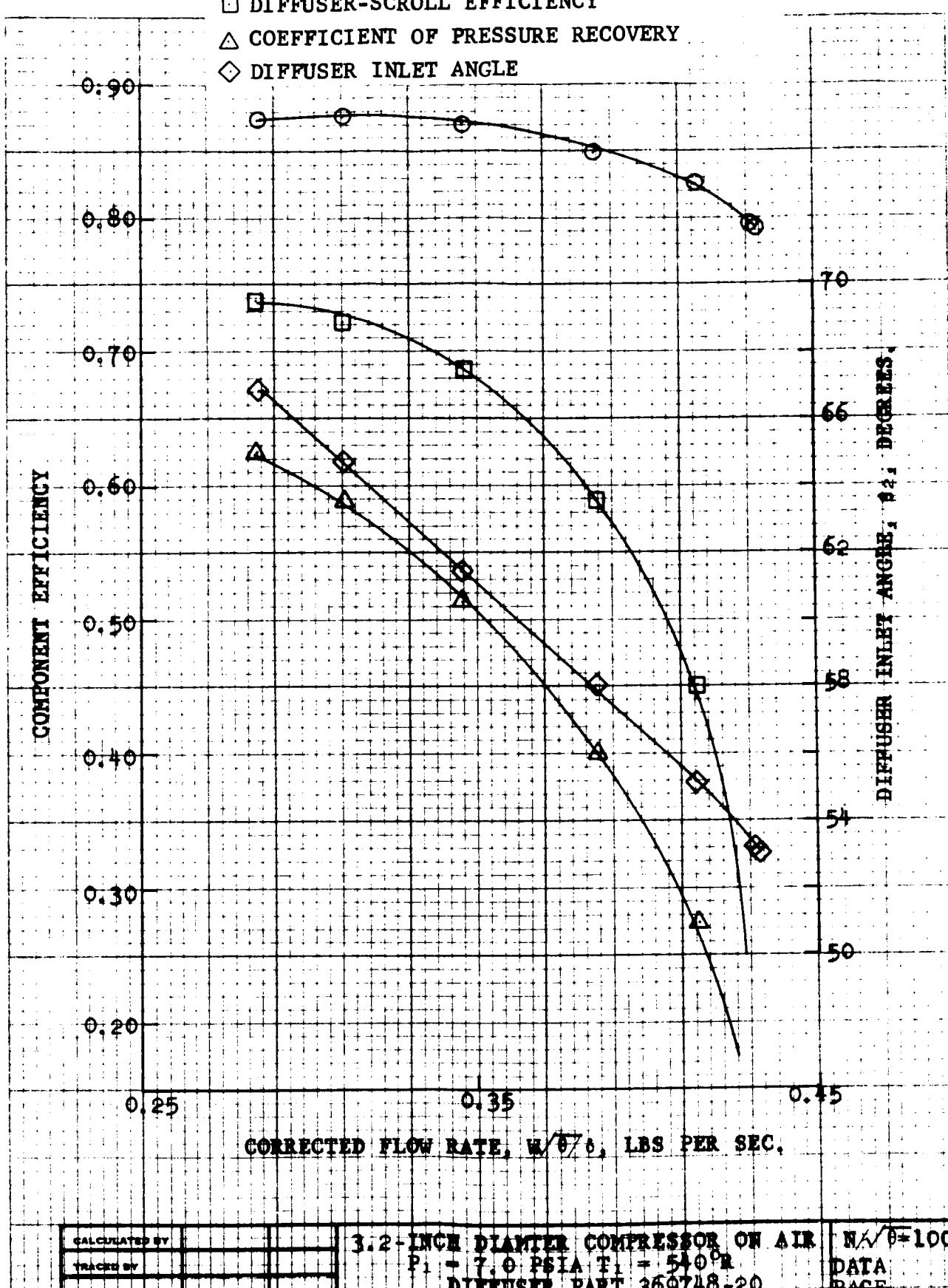


FIGURE 14
 APS-5211-R
 Page 29



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FIGURE 15
 APS-5211-R
 Page 30

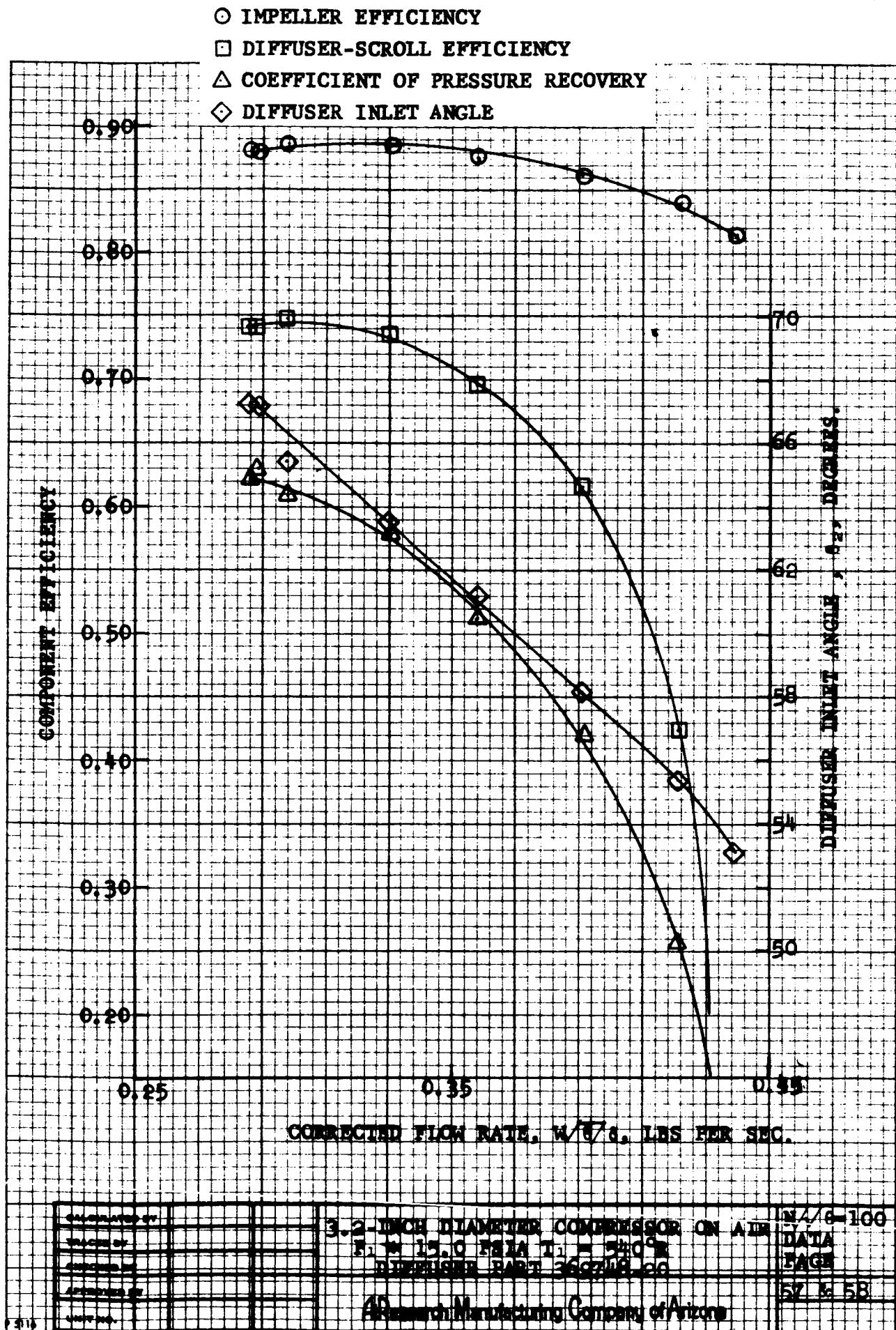
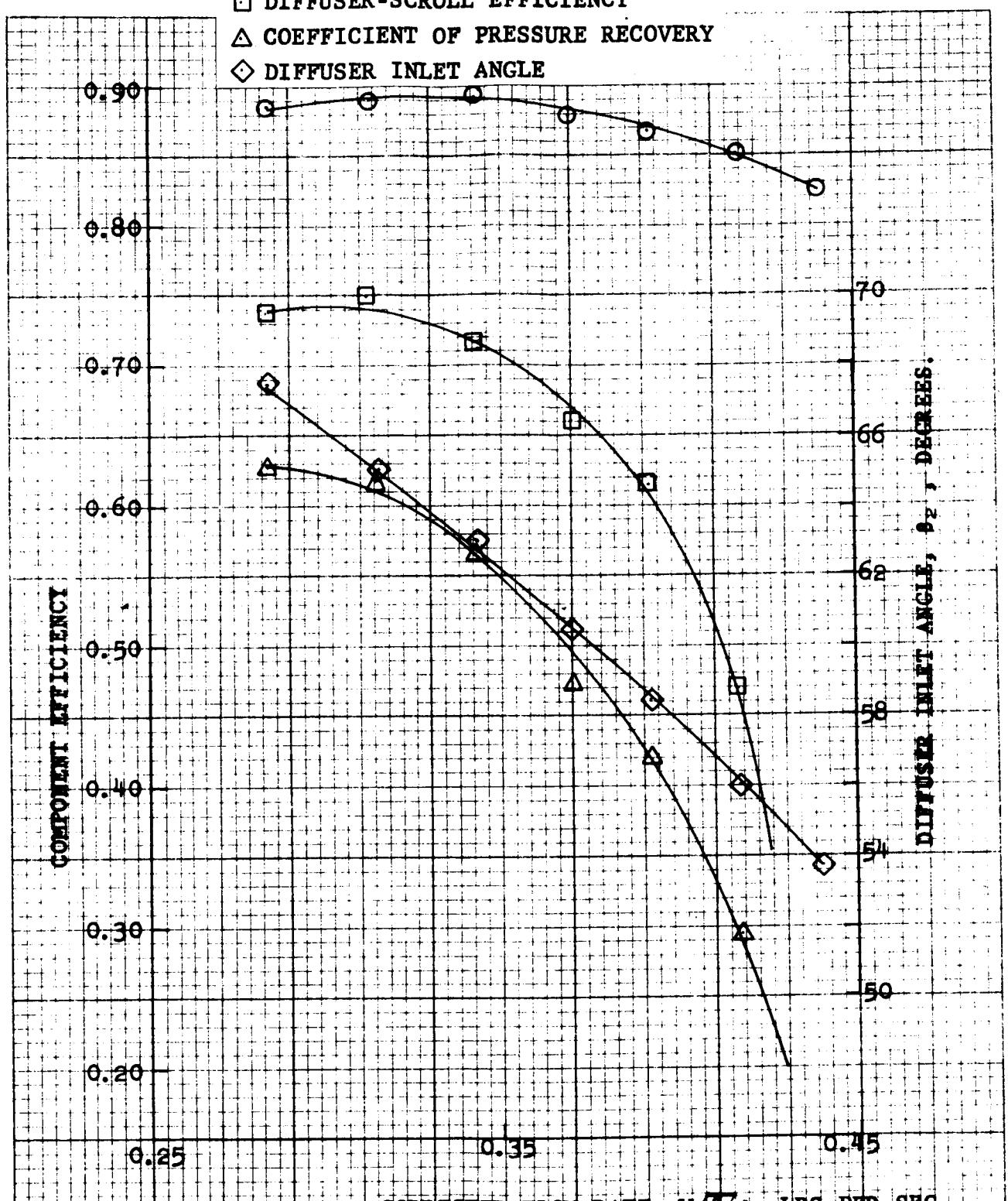


FIGURE 16
 APS-5211-R
 Page 31



3.2-INCH DIAMETER COMPRESSOR ON AIR N/V 100
 $P_1 = 24.0 \text{ PSIA}$ $T_1 = 540^\circ\text{R}$ DATA PAGE
 DIFFUSER PART 369748-20

AP Research Manufacturing Company of Arizona

FIGURE 17
 APS-5211-R
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boundary layer clogging at the diffuser inlet (0.90 for this investigation) and using the continuity and angular momentum relationships along with the observed data to determine the diffuser inlet Mach number and flow direction. Finally, from the observed average static pressure at the diffuser inlet, a total pressure is obtained.

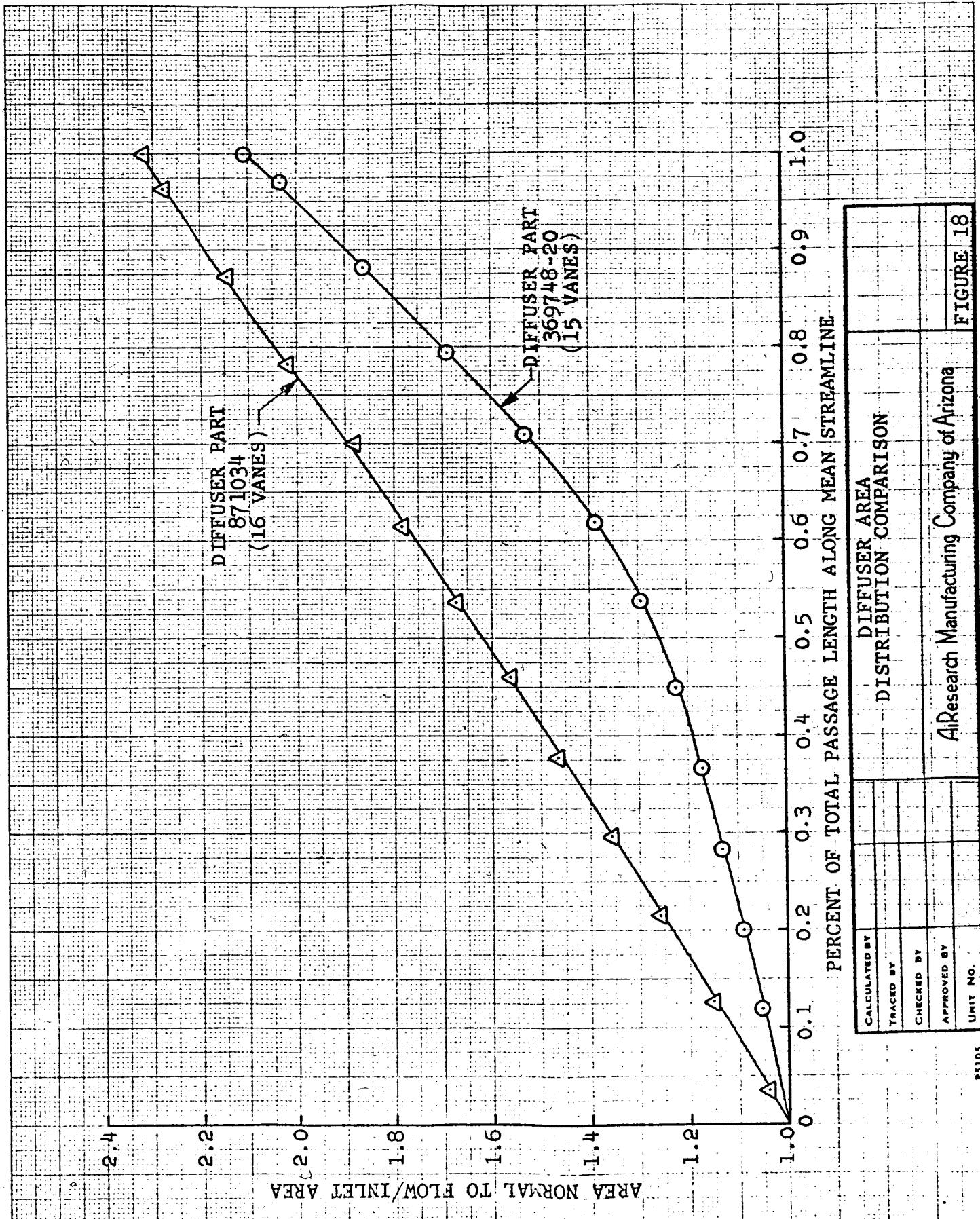
The observed static pressure distribution along the diffuser mean line is given for each air data point in Appendix I. The average static pressure at the scroll exit is also shown in these figures in order that scroll performance may be determined. On each graph the speed and inlet pressure are constant while the static pressure distributions are shown as the compressor is taken from operation points near the choke region to points near the surge region.

Phase II of the testing was conducted using the hardware identical to that of Phase I with the exception of a newly designed Diffuser Part 871034 in which the area ratio and distribution was modified in the attempt to improve diffuser efficiency at low Reynolds numbers (pressure levels at 4 psia particularly). Figure 18 shows the comparison between the two diffusers subjected to test. (A comparison of the performance of the two diffusers will be discussed in the section on analysis and interpretation of results.)

It should be noted that in the interest of economy, no change in the existing scroll was made in order to make it compatible with the redesigned diffuser passages.

The Phase II test program and data obtained were identical with that of Phase I with the exception of the 7 psia argon check points which were not required in Phase II.

Throughout all testing, efforts were made to maintain impeller shroud clearances at constant values in order to eliminate this factor from the observed performance. Shroud clearances were all set to the same measured value, at room temperature, during compressor assembly.



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CALCULATED BY	TRACTED BY	CHECKED BY
APPROVED BY	UNIT NO.	

Air Research Manufacturing Company of Arizona

FIGURE 18



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Plots of the observed overall performance resulting from Phase II testing are presented in Figure 19 through 23. (Here again the dashed lines will be discussed later in the analysis section.) The breakdown of impeller efficiency, diffuser plus scroll efficiency, diffuser pressure recovery, and diffuser inlet flow angles is given for the air 100 percent speed line for each pressure level in Figures 24 through 28.

The argon check point overall stage data for 100 percent equivalent speed at 7, 15, and 24 psia for Phase I and 15 and 24 psia for Phase II is shown on Figures 29 through 33. The solid lines shown are the estimated argon performance based on the previously recorded 100 percent speed air data. Excellent agreement between the predicted and observed performance is apparent for pressure ratios, efficiency, temperature rise and flow near the surge and peak efficiency points; however, the predicted choke flow is generally high. A reasonable level of confidence is therefore justified in the ability to predict at least the performance near peak efficiencies in argon from test results on identical compressors run in air.

It should be noted that while technical difficulties prevented any reliable argon data from being taken at 4 psia and 2 psia inlet pressures, there is every reason to believe that performance predictions from corresponding air data would have been successful.

It should be noted at this point that the transducer used to read out all pressures was not linear at the lower pressures. The digital readout was adjusted so that at approximately 30 in. Hg abs the readout agreed exactly with a reference standard manometer. Subsequent calibration of the transducer revealed that, as the measured pressure dropped, an increasing error between the digital

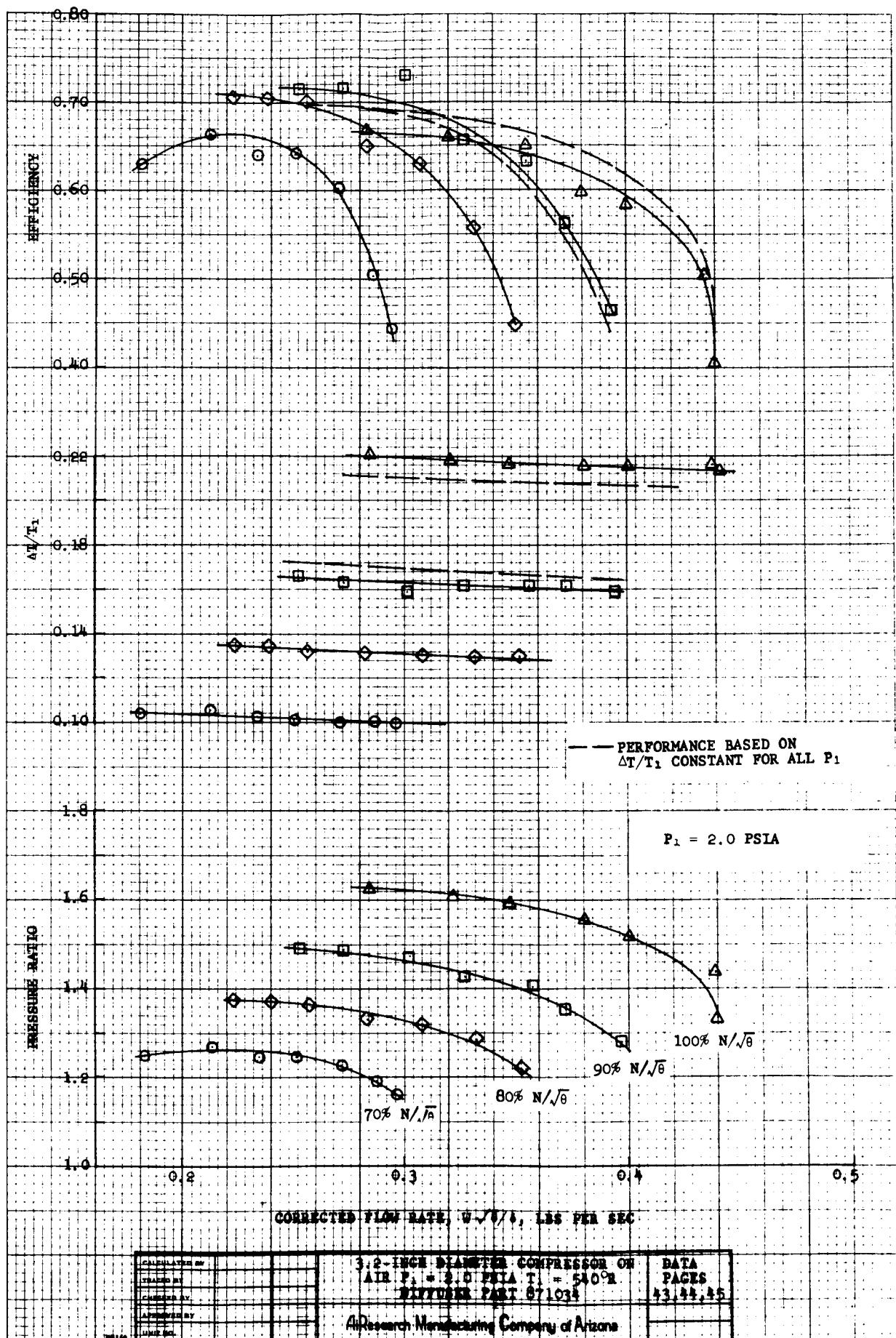


FIGURE 19
APS-5211-R
Page 36

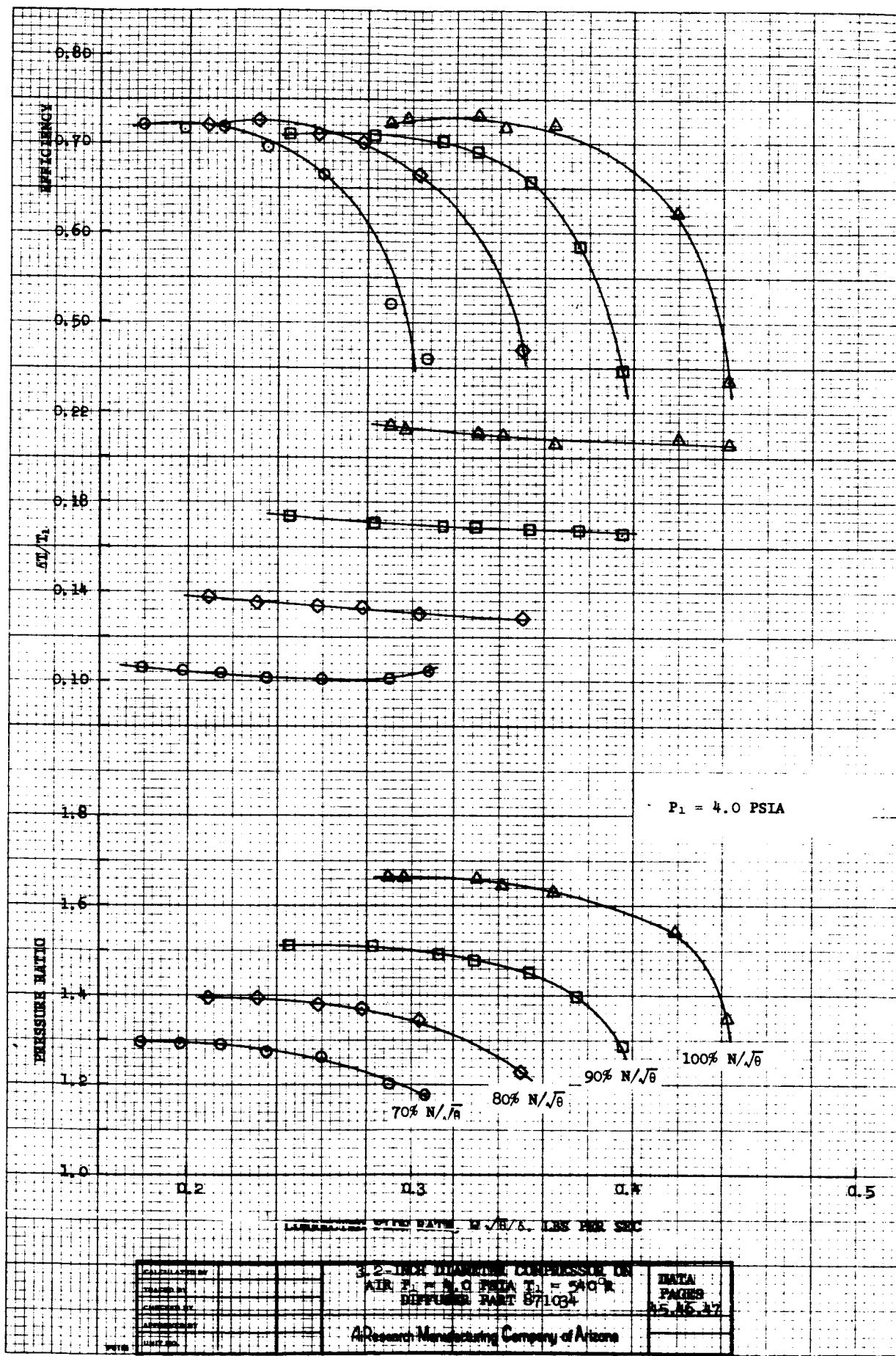


FIGURE 20
APS-5211-R
PAGE 37

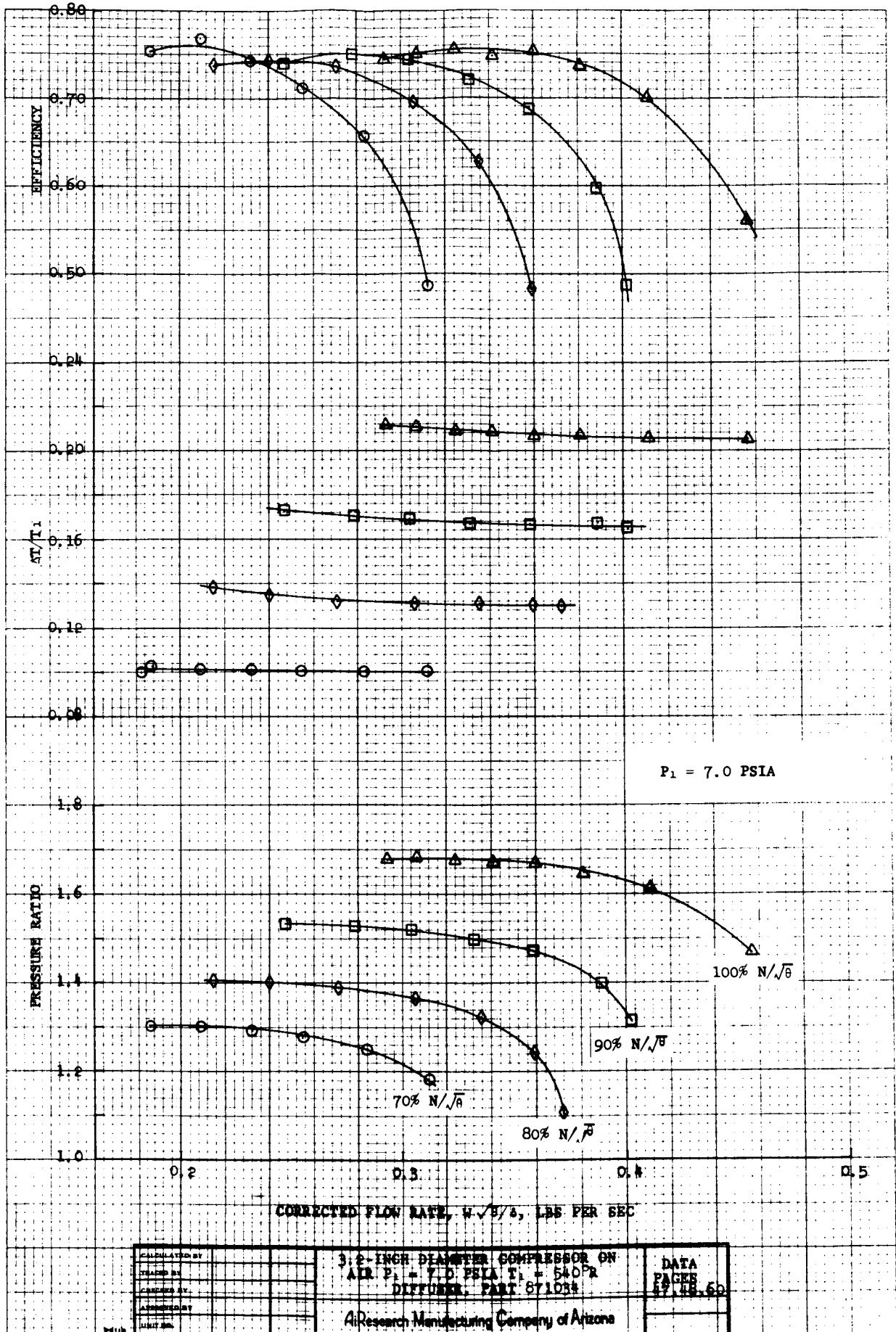


FIGURE 21
APS-5211-R
Page 38

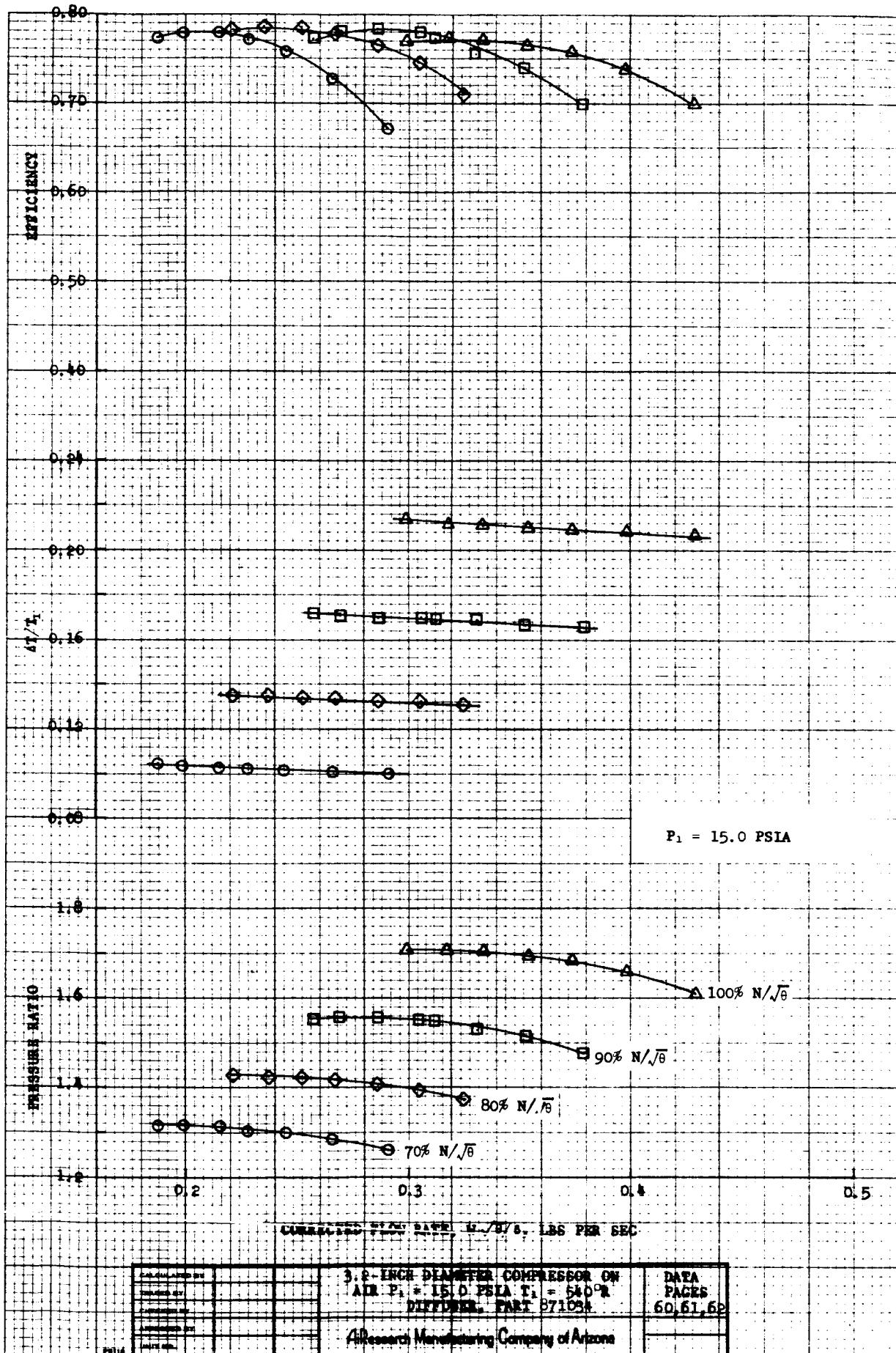


FIGURE 22
APS-5211-R
Page 39

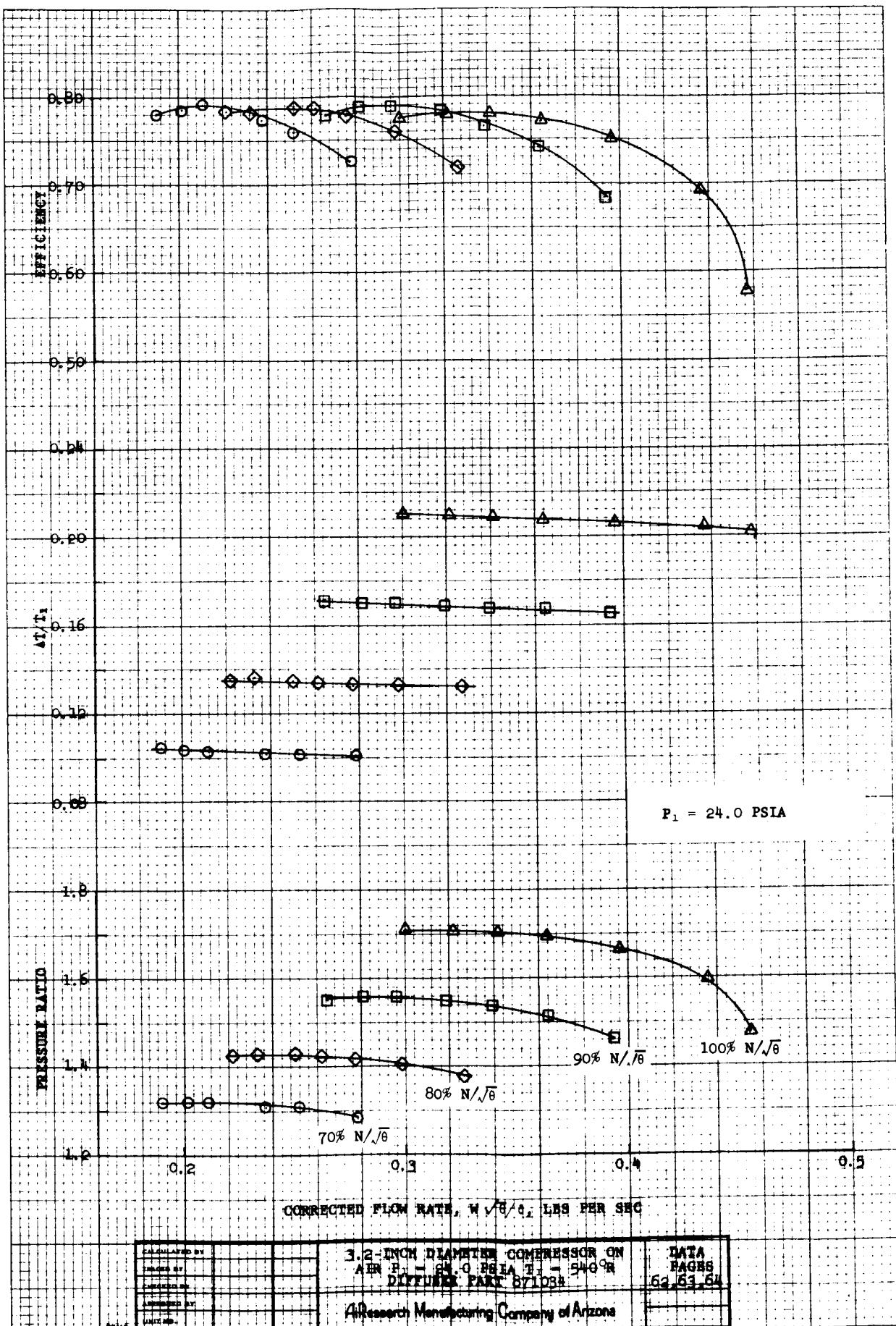


FIGURE 23
APS-5211-R
Page 40

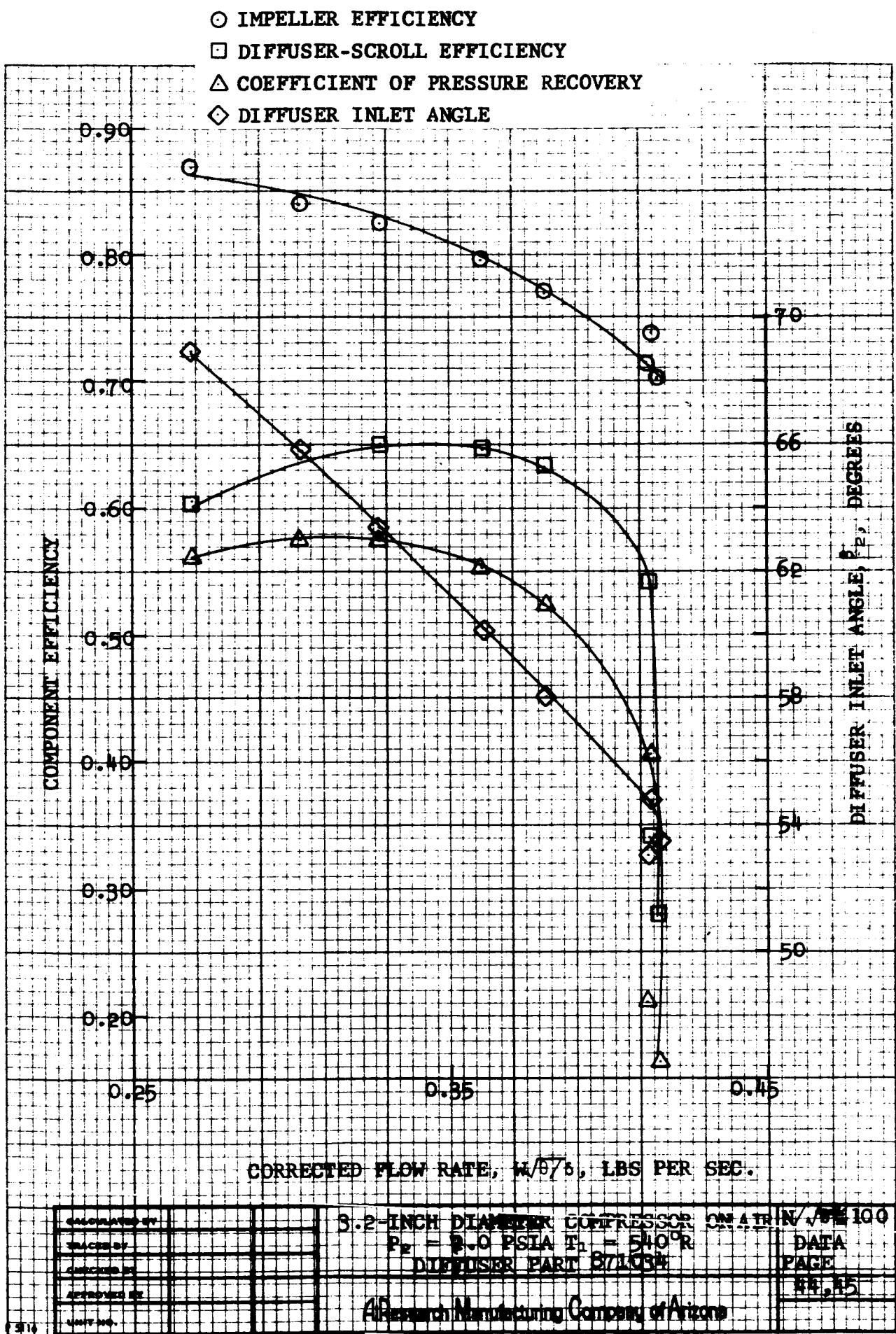
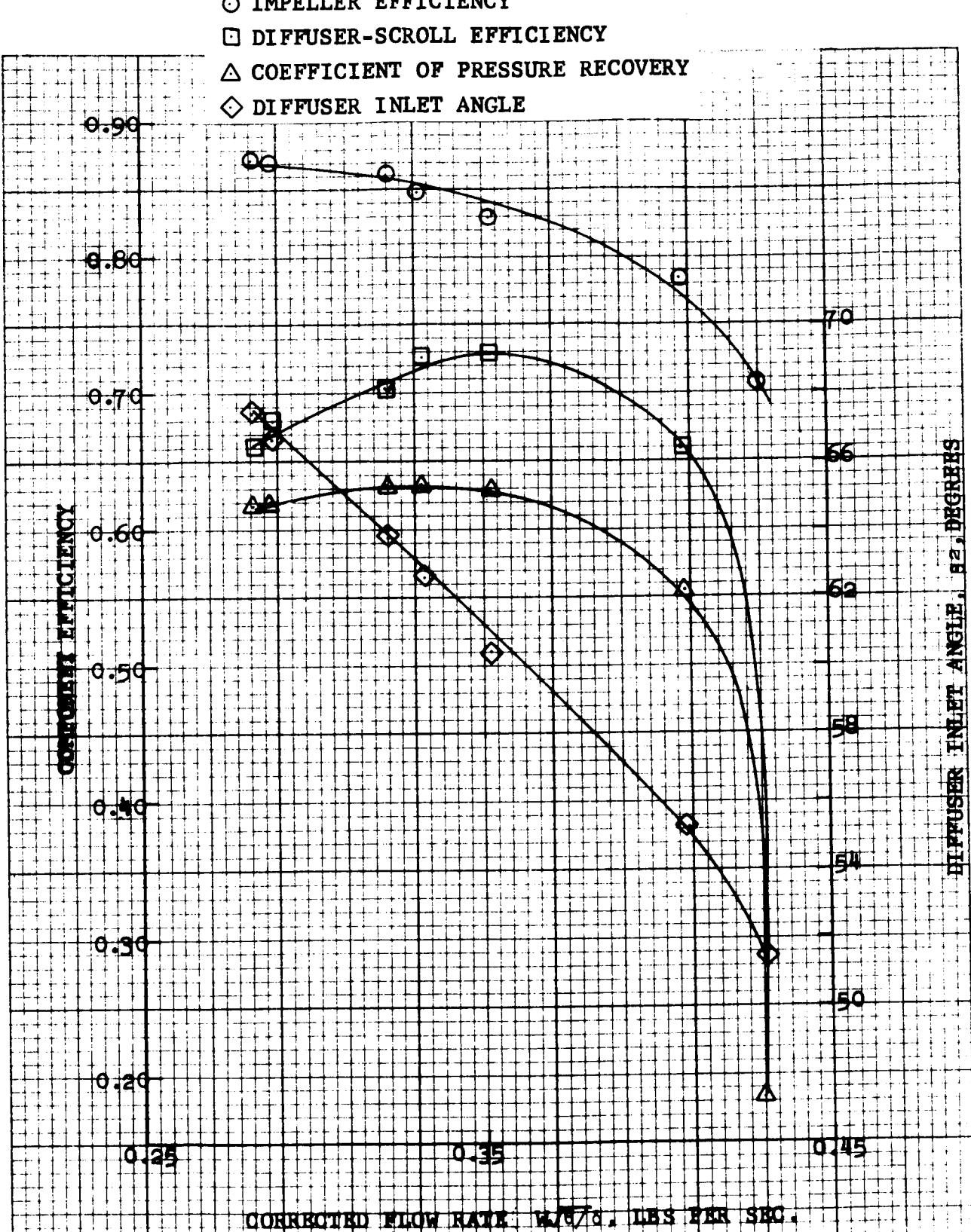


FIGURE 24
APS-5211-R
Page 41



Specified at:	3.2-INCH DIAMETER COMPRESSOR ON AIR N/VG-100
Volume:	$V = 140 \text{ FT}^3/\text{SEC}$ $T_1 = 540^\circ\text{R}$
Design:	DISPLACER RATE 841644
Estimated at:	
Unit No.:	DATA PAGE 10, 11

AP Research Manufacturing Company of Arizona

FIGURE 25
APS-5211-R
Page 42

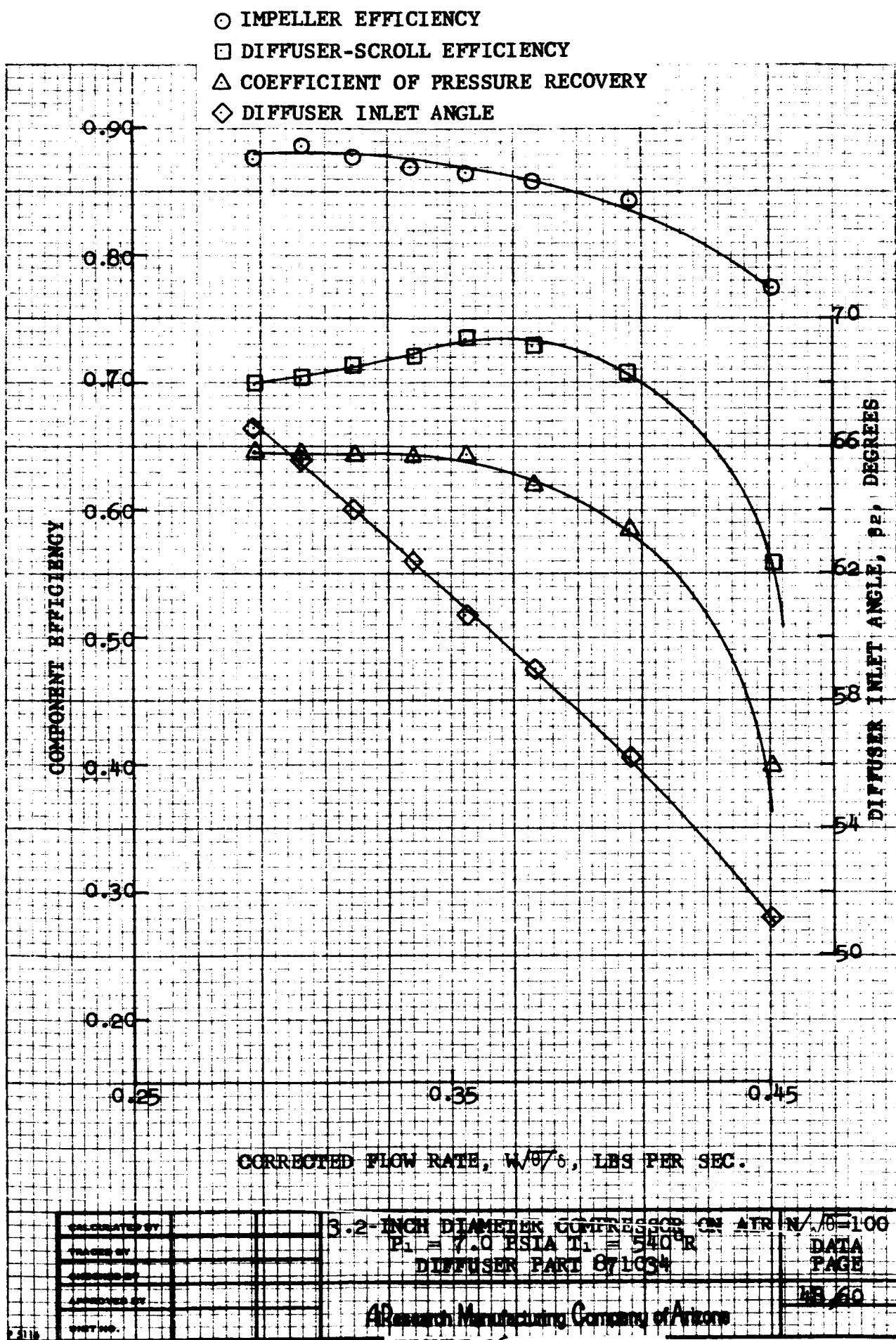
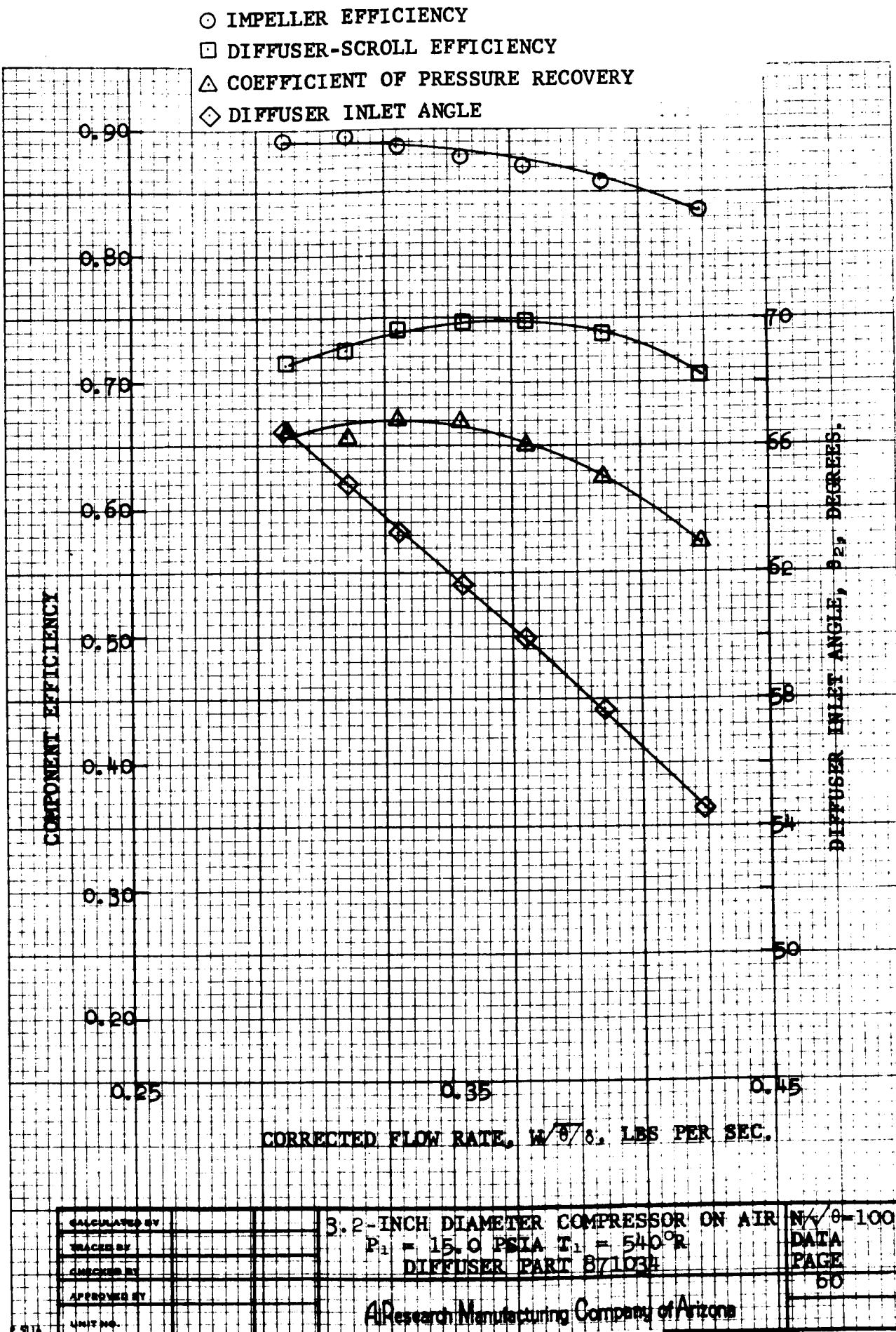


FIGURE 26
APS-5211-R
Page 43



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FIGURE 27
 APS-5211-R
 Page 44

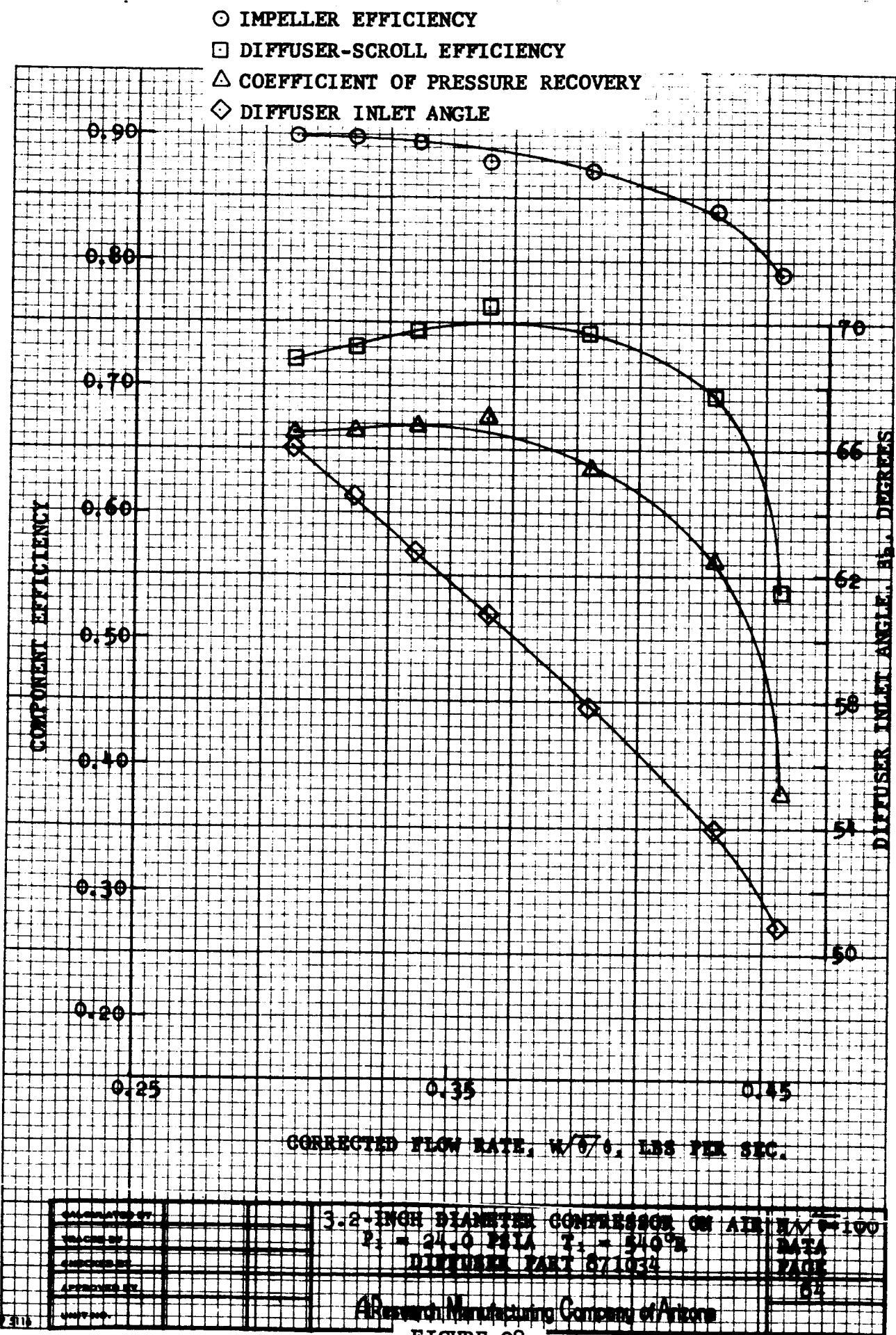


FIGURE 28
 APS-5211-R
 Page 45

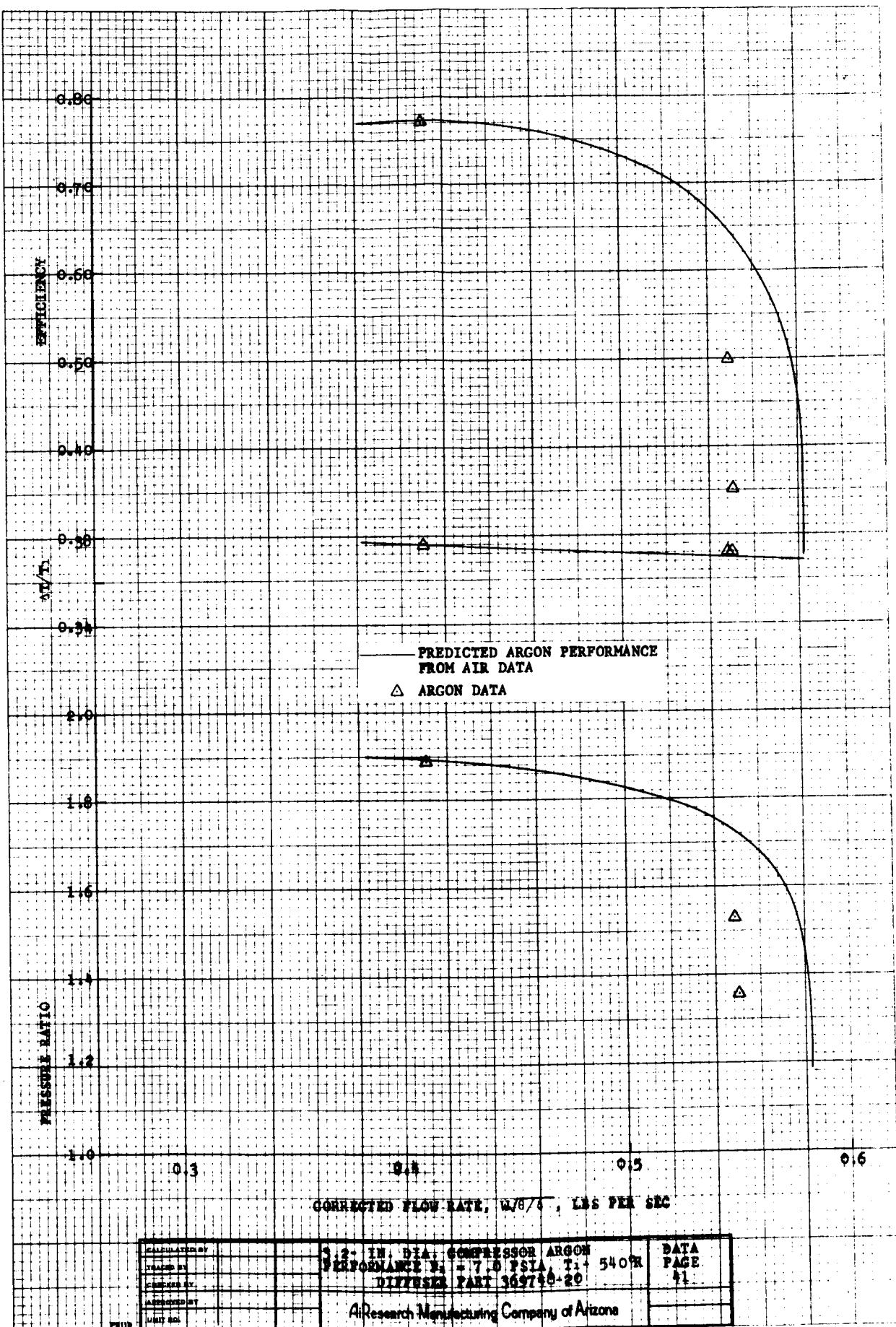


FIGURE 29
APS-5211-R
Page 46

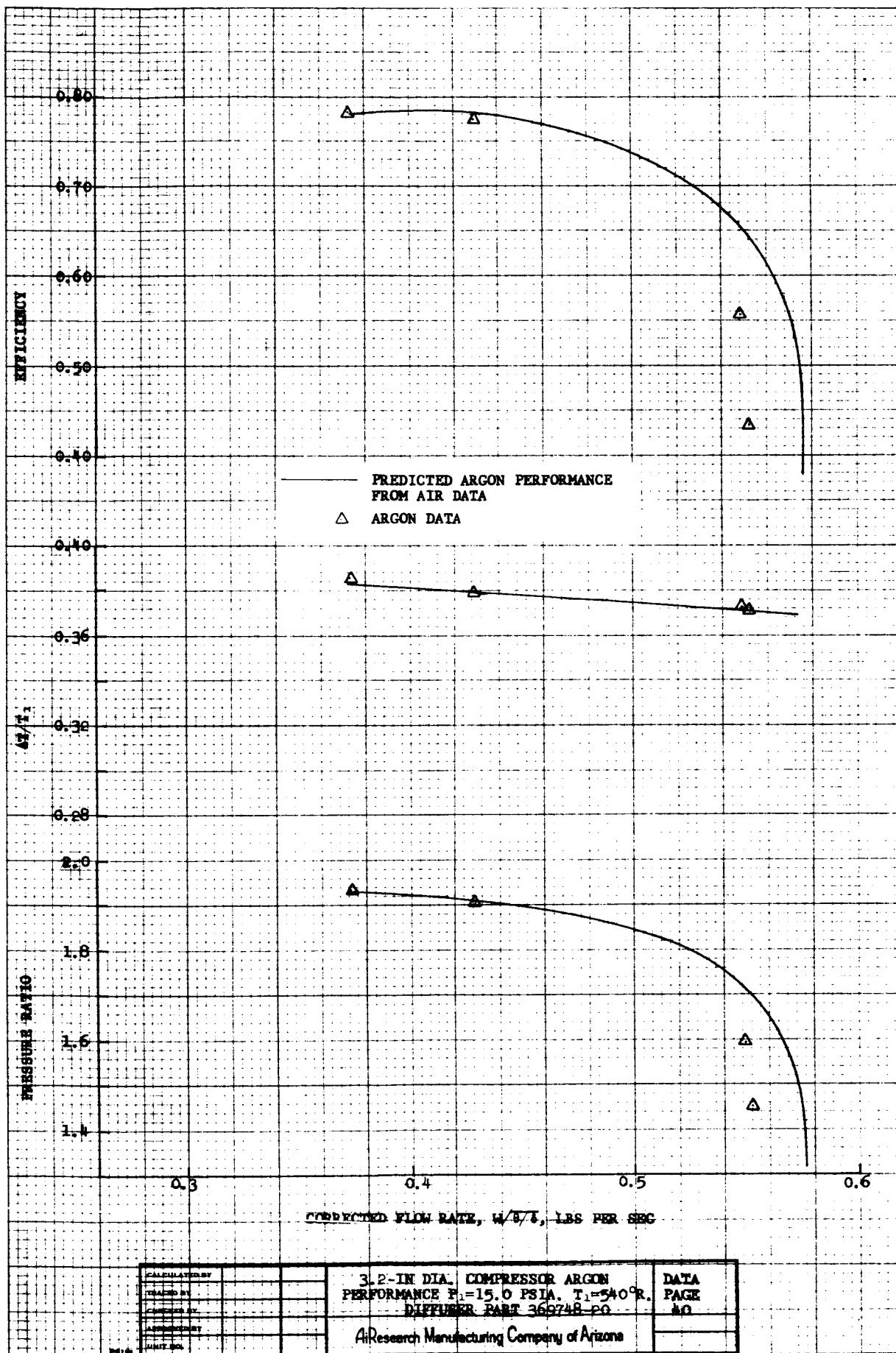


FIGURE 30
APS-5211-R
Page 47

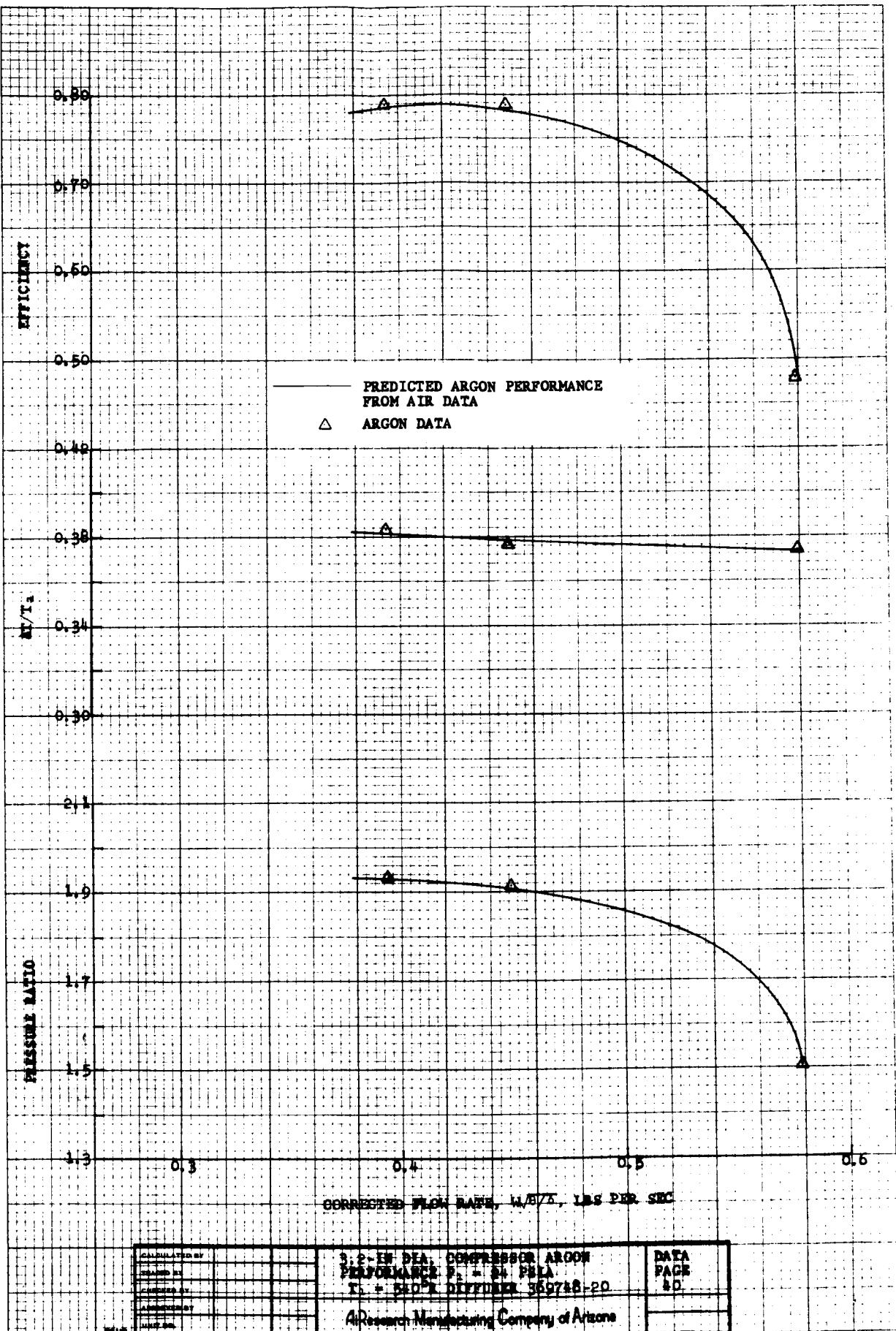


FIGURE 31
 APS-5211-R
 Page 48

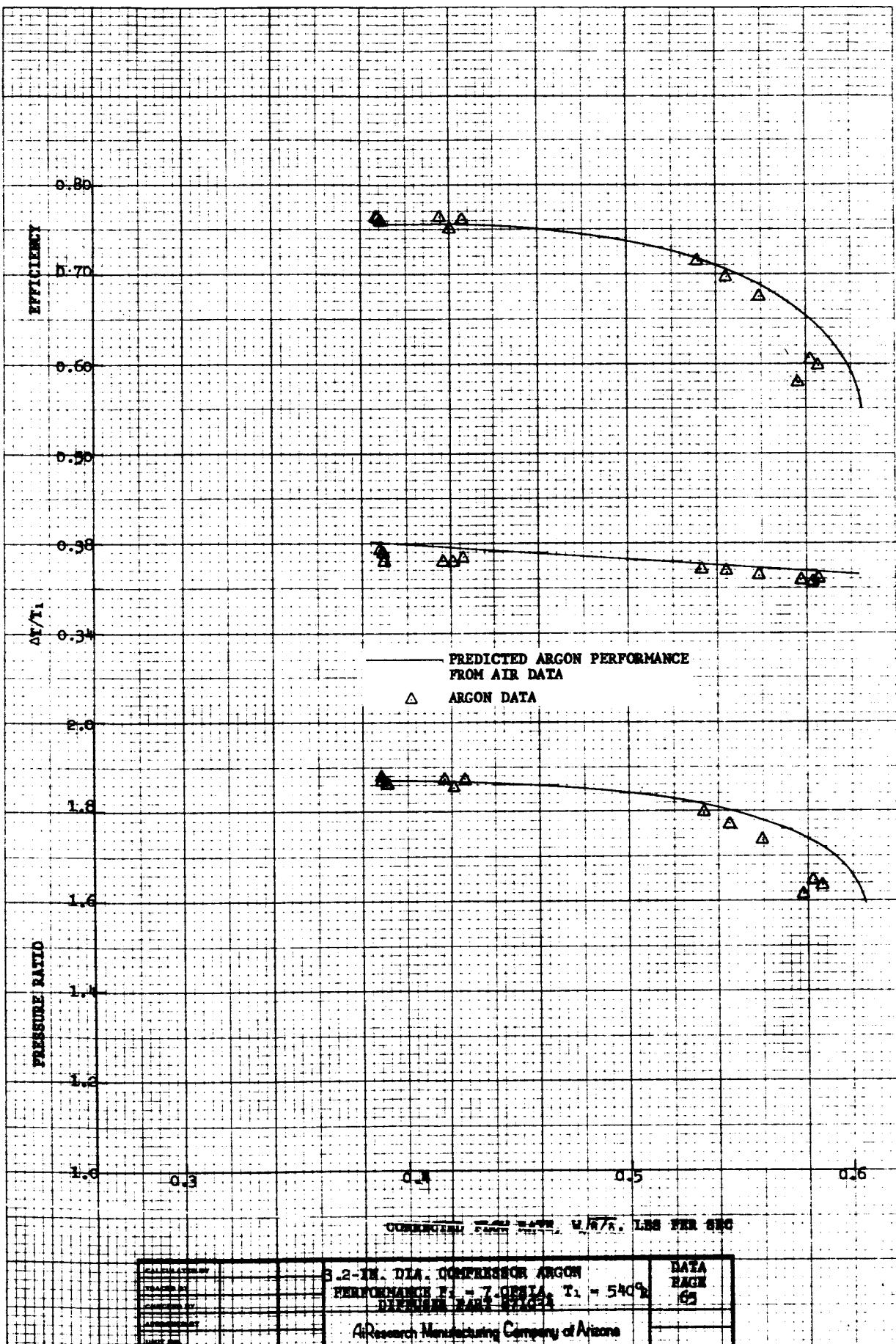


FIGURE 32
APS-5211-R
Page 49

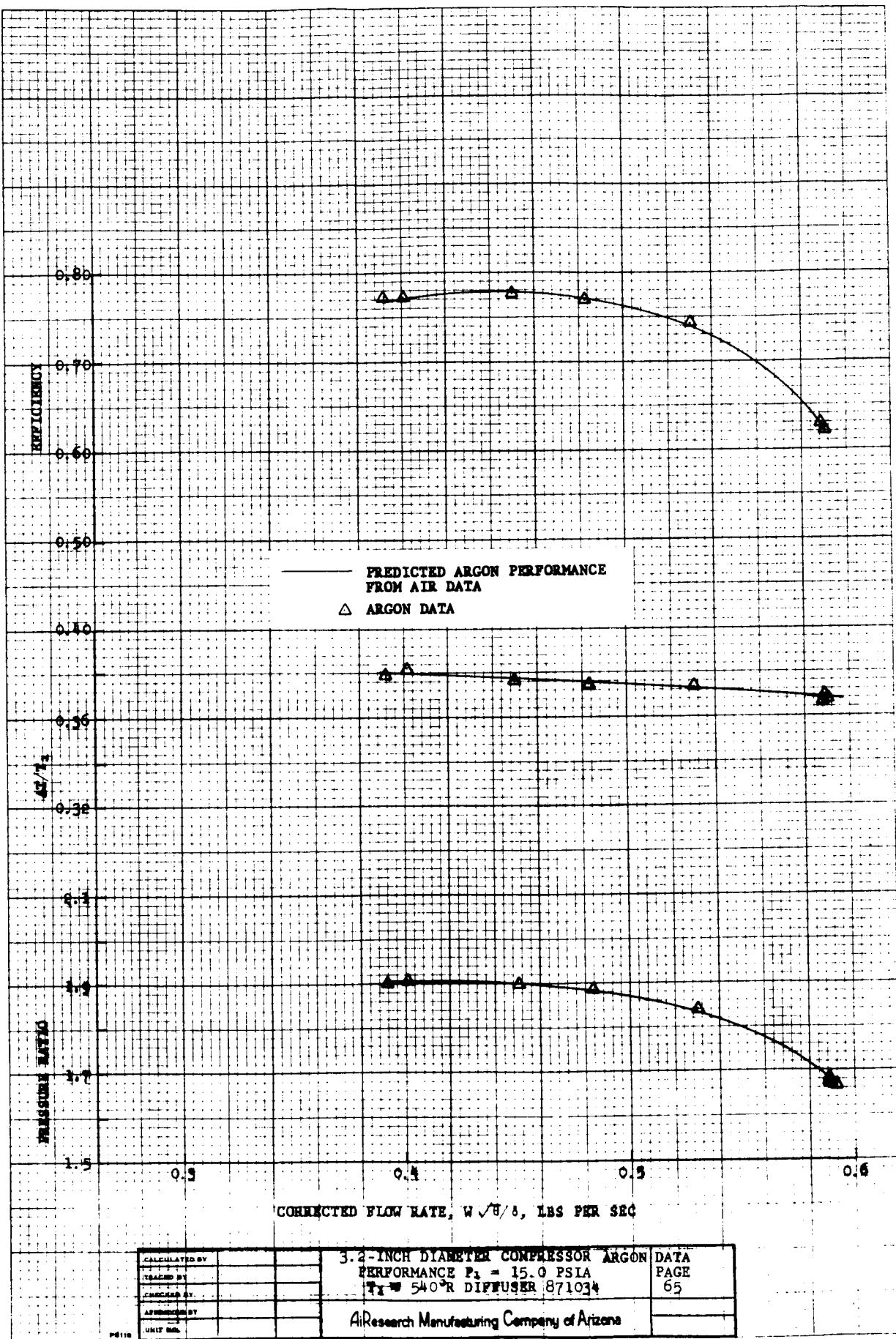


FIGURE 33
APS-5211-R
Page 50



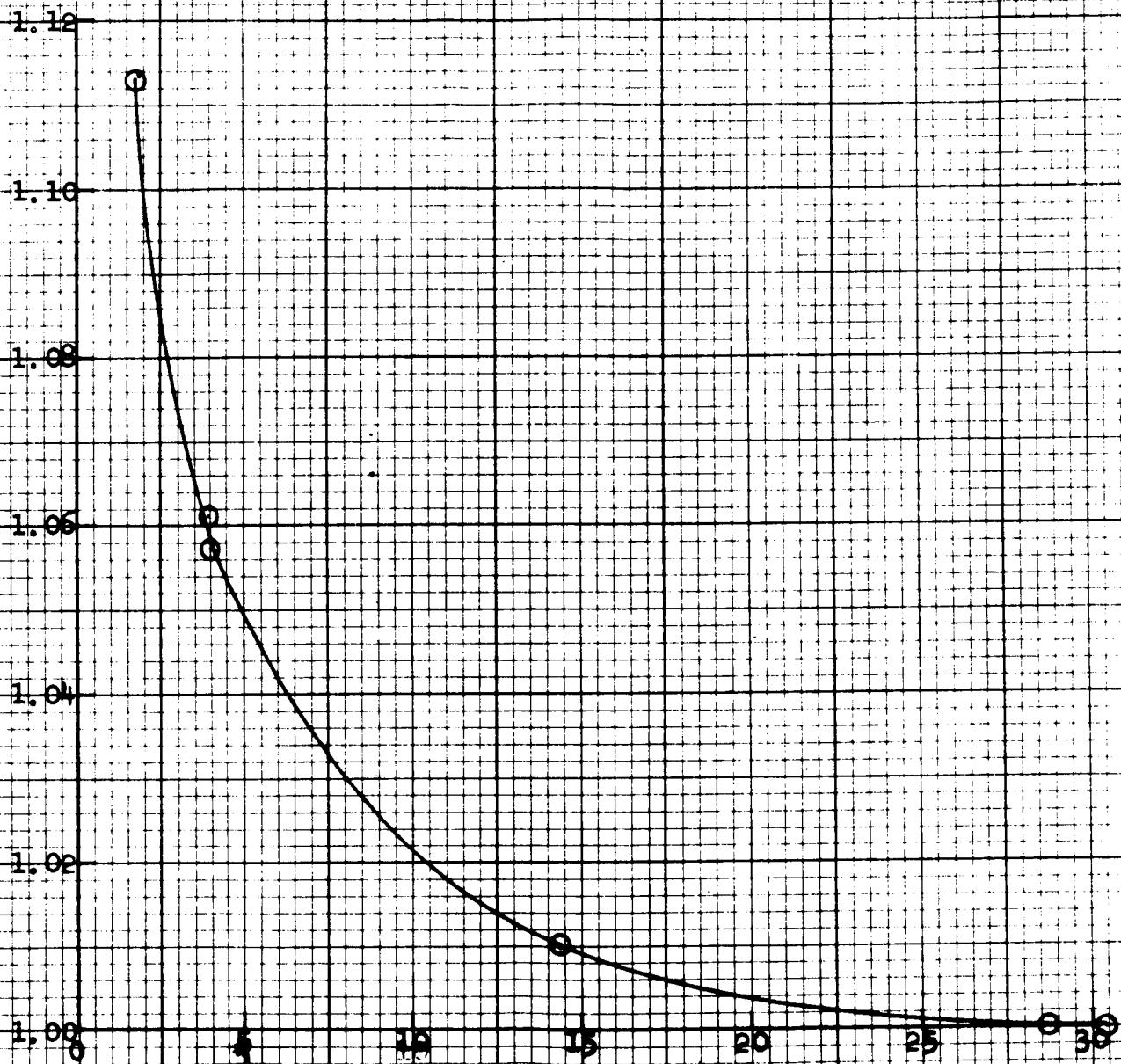
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PHOENIX, ARIZONA

readout and the standard manometer was apparent. A plot of the percent error as a function of pressure level is shown in Figure 3⁴. Note that very large errors occur at the lower pressures.

All overall data and diffuser-impeller performance breakdowns for both Phase I and Phase II test results have been corrected in accordance with this calibration.

Because of the number of pressures recorded in the diffuser mean line static pressure distributions shown in Appendix I, it was deemed impractical to correct these data. As a result, the level of the static pressure distributions for the lower inlet pressure levels is slightly high. The error is significant only for the 2 psia data, and, if necessary, corrections can be made for specific data points by use of Figure 3⁴.

P_{TRUE}/P_{DIGITAL}



DIGITAL PRESSURE IN. HgA.

CALCULATED BY

TRACED BY

CHECKED BY

APPROVED BY

UNIT NO.

TRANSDUCER CALIBRATION

P 5116

AiResearch Manufacturing Company

FIGURE 34
APS-5211-R
Page 52



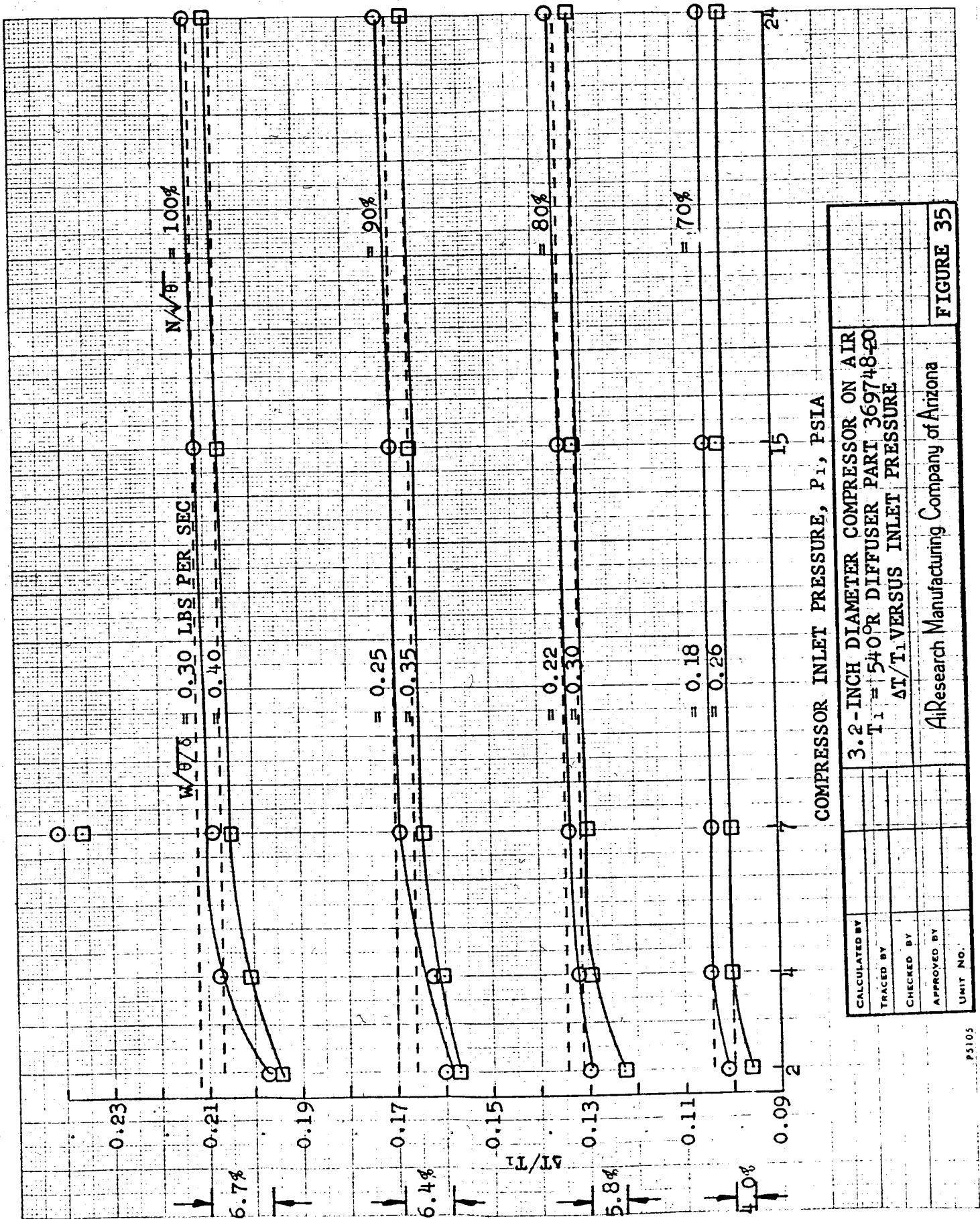
ANALYSIS OF TEST RESULTS

Overall Performance

An initial perusal of the overall data for both the original and redesigned diffusers indicated unexpected trends, particularly at the low pressure levels, 2 and 4 psia. Instead of the anticipated depreciation in overall efficiency with decreasing inlet pressure (i.e., Reynolds number), the efficiency of the configuration utilizing the original diffuser actually appeared to increase according to the 2-psia inlet pressure data. The peak efficiencies observed with the redesigned diffuser also seemed to vary irregularly for the 2-psia case.

A survey of the individual thermocouple and pressure probe readings revealed that the values were remarkably consistent, i.e., the inconsistent data was not due to isolated bad thermocouples or pressure probes.

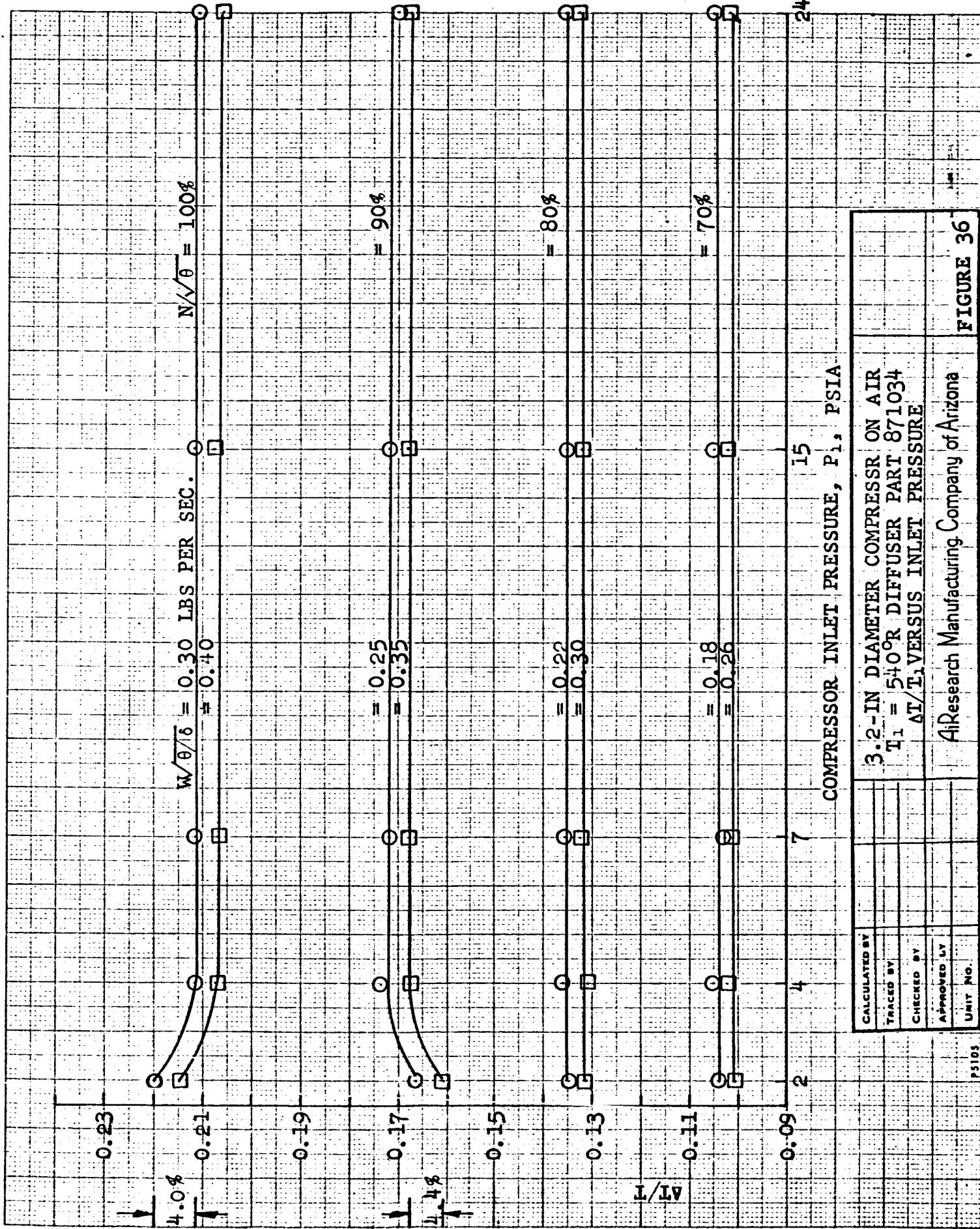
Because of past difficulty in measuring temperatures at extremely low pressure levels, a general error in thermocouple readings due to the extremely small mass flow per unit area resulting in a relatively poor heat-transfer condition was next suspected. In order to check this theory the observed values of $\frac{\Delta T}{T_1}$ for fixed corrected flows (one near surge and one near choke for each speed) were plotted as a function of inlet pressure. The results are shown in Figure 35 for the original diffuser and in Figure 36 for the redesigned diffuser. These plots indicate that for the higher pressure levels (7 psia and greater) the values of $\frac{\Delta T}{T_1}$ are essentially constant; while at 4 psia and lower, $\frac{\Delta T}{T_1}$ appears to go up, down, or remain constant, depending on speed or which



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CALCULATED BY	TRACTED BY
T ₁ = 54°F	ΔT/T ₁ VERSUS INLET PRESSURE
CHECKED BY	AirResearch Manufacturing Company of Arizona
APPROVED BY	FIGURE 35
UNIT NO.	P5105

3.2-INCH DIAMETER COMPRESSOR ON AIR
PART 369748-20



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CALCULATED BY	3.2-IN DIAMETER COMPRESSOR ON AIR
TRACED BY	$T_1 = 540^{\circ}\text{R}$ DIFFUSER PART 871034
CHECKED BY	$\Delta T/T$ VERSUS INLET PRESSURE
APPROVED BY	
UNIT NO.	

15 7 15

COMPRESSOR INLET PRESSURE, P_1 , PSIA

24

A Research Manufacturing Company of Arizona FIGURE 36

P103



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diffuser is installed. It is extremely unlikely that the observed $\frac{\Delta T}{T_1}$ are representative of the actual values, particularly in view of data (Ref. 1 - 4) indicating a high degree of thermocouple error when small mass flows per unit area are encountered. Since no more suitable instrumentation was available, retesting did not appear to be warranted.

In light of the significant effect of $\frac{\Delta T}{T_1}$ on efficiency, the following assumptions were made in an attempt to obtain meaningful results from the observed data.

- (1) The pressure ratio was assumed to be accurate.
- (2) $\frac{\Delta T}{T_1}$ was assumed to be constant for all pressure levels. The level chosen was that displayed at the 15 psia condition, as shown in Figure 35.

Assumption (1) is substantiated by the general quality of the pressure data. Assumption (2) is purely arbitrary but is based on the fact that, for about 75 percent of the data taken, $\frac{\Delta T}{T_1}$ was essentially constant as a function of pressure for a fixed speed. This is not a rigorous argument. In fact, it may be argued on the one hand that as the pressure level (Reynolds number) is reduced, an increasingly large quantity of low energy boundary layer is produced. This boundary layer, in combination with the strong secondary flows normally existing in a centrifugal impeller, could cause an increased quantity of recirculating fluid, manifesting itself as an increase in $\frac{\Delta T}{T_1}$. However, on the other hand, it may also be argued that a heat leak from the assembly could reduce $\frac{\Delta T}{T_1}$, if the heat leak is not correctly measured or insulated against.

The values of overall efficiency were, therefore, "corrected" by using these assumptions for that portion of the data when required, mainly 2 and 4 psia data. The "corrected" efficiencies and $\frac{\Delta T}{T_1}$ values are shown as dashed lines on Figures 8, 9, 10, and 19. The resulting efficiencies seem to be more realistic and also generally follow the trend established by the data taken at the higher pressure levels.



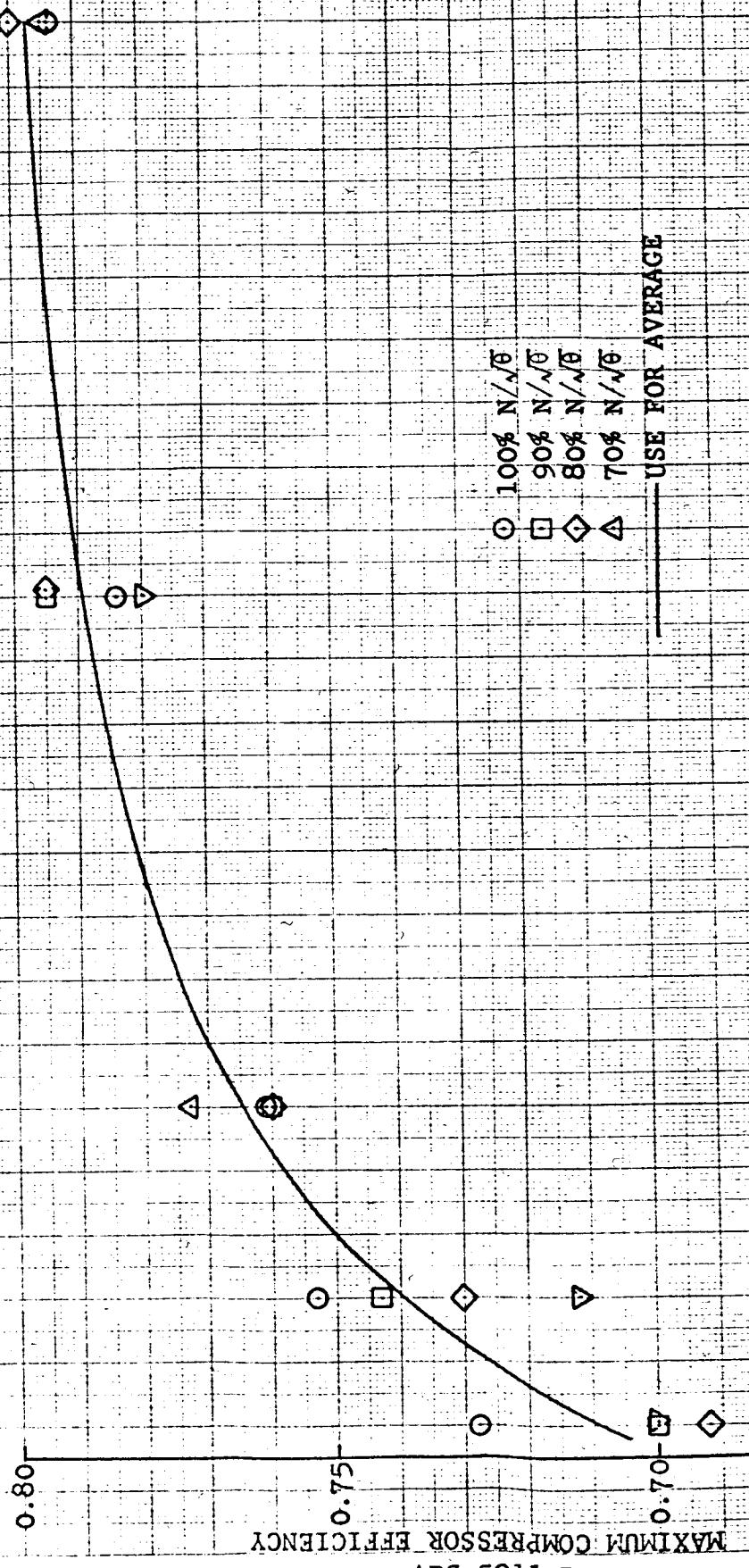
With the "corrected" values used, the effect of inlet pressure on overall performance is presented for the original diffuser in Figure 37 and for the redesigned diffuser in Figure 38.

Generally, on an overall efficiency basis, the original diffuser appears to yield superior performance at 4 psia. The effect of pressure level on overall efficiency also appears to be significant, particularly at inlet pressures less than 4 psia.

The solid curves on Figures 37 and 38 represent an attempt to establish a general trend of efficiency vs pressure level for all the data taken with the two diffuser configurations. By use of these curves and Reynolds numbers based on average tip speed, a plot of $1 - \eta_{max}$ as a function of average Reynolds number is shown for both diffusers in Figure 39.

For comparison, a line is also shown along which $1 - \eta_{max}$ varies inversely as the Reynolds number raised to the 0.2 power, i.e.,
$$\frac{1 - \eta}{1 - \eta_{ref}} = \left(\frac{Re_{ref}}{Re} \right)^{0.2}$$
. The reference Reynolds number was taken so as to correspond to approximately standard sea level conditions for the subject compressor, and the reference efficiency was taken as the average of the observed efficiencies for the compressor with the original and redesigned diffusers.

It appears that the 0.2 "law" is valid when Reynolds numbers lower than those occurring at standard conditions with this particular compressor are encountered, but does not necessarily hold for higher Reynolds numbers. Stated another way, it appears that, when a fixed geometrical configuration is operated at low Reynolds numbers, an efficiency decrement compared with performance at standard conditions can be predicted with reasonable accuracy by using the 0.2 "law." At Reynolds numbers higher than standard, however, it appears that little or no gain in efficiency should be expected.



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15

7

24

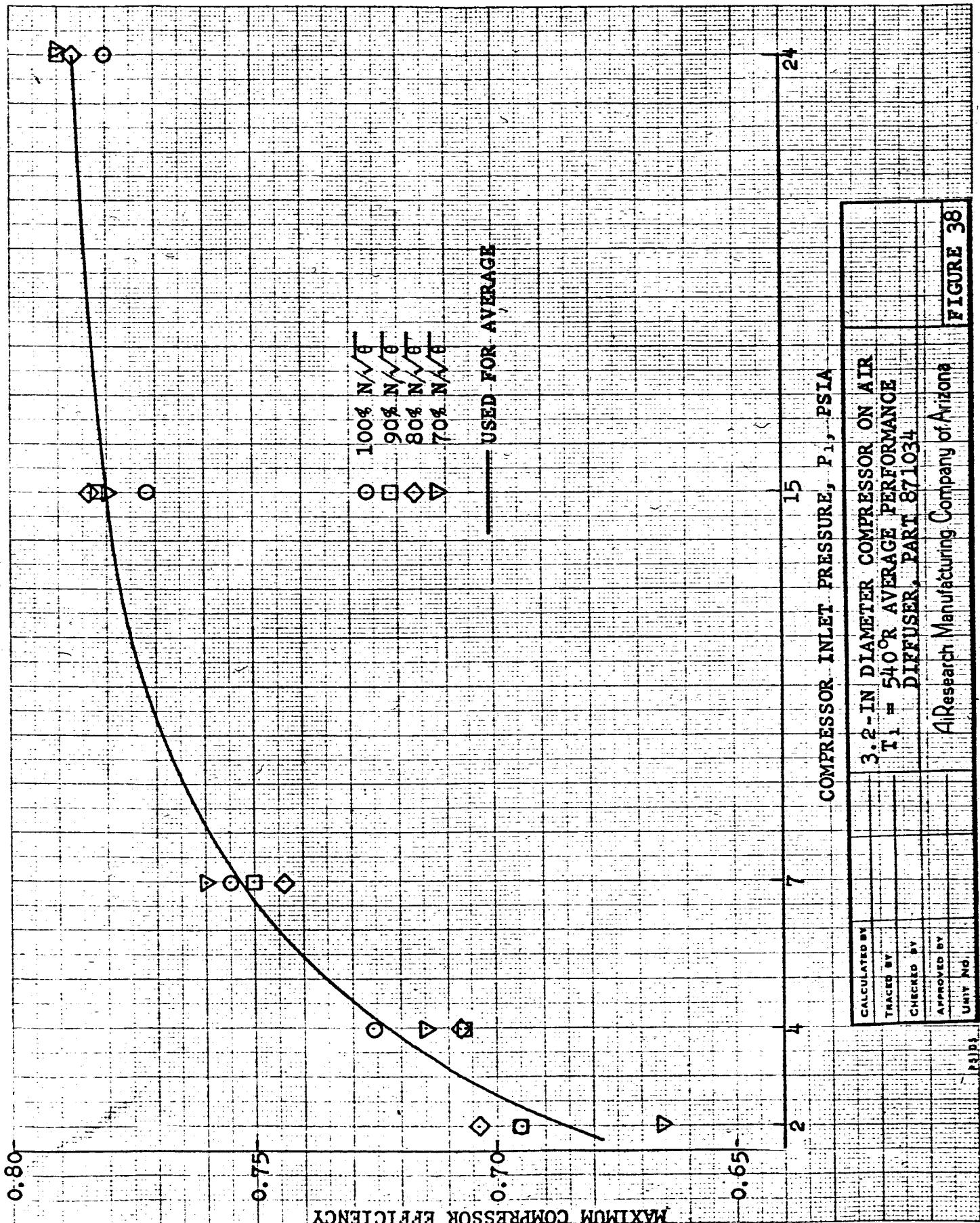
COMPRESSOR INLET PRESSURE, P_1 , PSIA

3.2-IN. DIAMETER COMPRESSOR ON
AIR T = 54°^OR. AVERAGE
PERFORMANCE DIFFUSER 369748-20

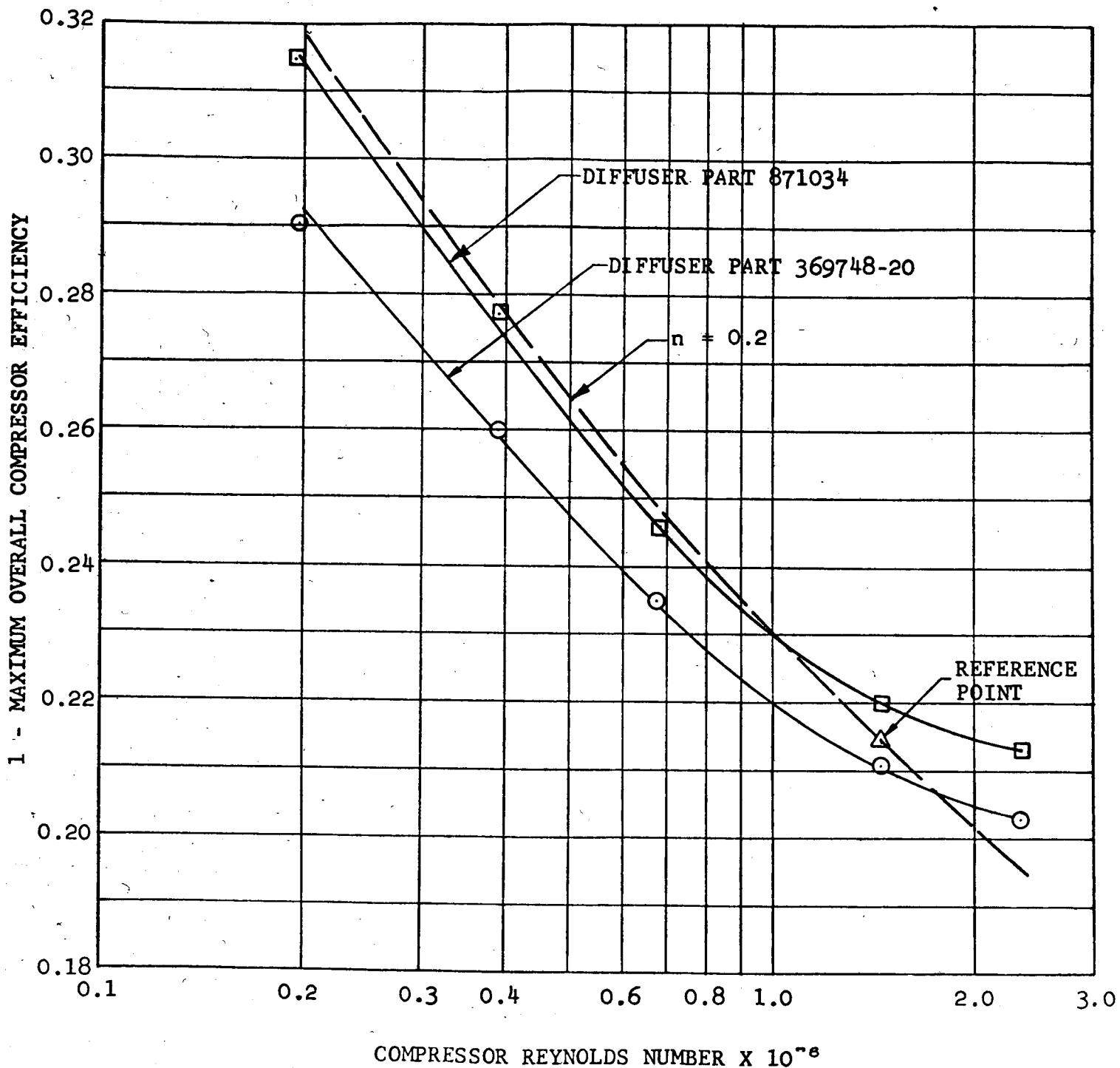
ArResearch Manufacturing Company of Arizona FIGURE 37

PS103

CALCULATED BY	TRACTED BY	CHECKED BY
UNIT NO.		



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EFFECT OF REYNOLDS NUMBER ON
COMPRESSOR PERFORMANCE

FIGURE 39

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It must be reiterated that the above conclusions hold only if the assumption that the $\frac{\Delta T}{T_1}$ remains constant with pressure level is valid.

Diffuser Performance

As previously mentioned, the breakdown between impeller and diffuser (plus scroll) performance for 100 percent speed and all inlet pressures is shown in Figures 13 through 17 and 24 through 28. Because of the difficulty encountered in measuring temperatures accurately at the lower pressure levels, as discussed in the preceding section, it is doubtful whether the efficiency breakdowns shown for the 2 psia and 4 psia inlet conditions represents a true comparison of old and new diffuser performance. It should be noted that this data can be recalculated to correspond to the overall performance data obtained by using the adjusted $\frac{\Delta T}{T_1}$ distributions shown as dashed lines on Figures 8, 9, 10, and 19. However, due to the arbitrary nature of that adjustment, a similar correction to the impeller and diffuser performance data is not deemed to be justified at this time.

At an impeller inlet pressure of 7 psia and 100 percent speed, the following observations can be made. (Figures 15 and 26.)

1. The impeller characteristic is about the same for both the original and redesigned diffuser. This is as expected, since the effect of the diffuser on the impeller should be negligible. Confidence is thus justified in the diffuser performance comparison.



2. The peak efficiency for the redesigned diffuser plus scroll is identical to that of the original diffuser (about 0.735). The redesigned diffuser characteristic appears to have been shifted so that its peak efficiency does not occur at the same corrected flow as the impeller peak efficiency. This results in a reduced peak stage efficiency and explains the decrease in peak overall efficiency observed in Figures 10 and 20 between the performance with the original and redesigned diffusers. Apparently the redesign did not improve the peak performance of the diffuser-scroll combination.

The preceding statements made concerning the 7-psia data are equally applicable to the 15- and 24-psia data. This leads to the conclusion that the peak efficiency performance of the diffuser-scroll combination at high Reynolds numbers was not affected by the redesign.

The static pressure distributions along the diffuser mean line and at the scroll exit, presented in Appendix I, must now be evaluated. When the distributions on pages 14 and 37 of Appendix I are compared (for 7-psia air data at design speed for the original and redesigned diffusers respectively), an interesting factor becomes apparent. When considering only the pressure distributions at a flow point near surge (the upper curves), both diffusers have the same inlet static pressure (about 19.6 in. Hg abs). At the exit of the redesigned diffuser, the static pressure is 23.95 in. Hg abs, as compared with 23.60 in. Hg abs at the exit of the original diffuser. At the scroll exit the static pressure with the original diffuser is 24.20 compared to 24.00 for the redesigned diffuser. Since the inlet conditions are identical, it seems that the



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redesigned diffuser has better recovery than the original diffuser. Due to a mismatch with the scroll, the efficiency of the diffuser-scroll combination appears to be lower with the redesigned diffuser. Note that the contract did not allow for modification of the scroll from its original design to account for the re-designed diffuser.

A similar trend is observed in the data for 100 percent speed and 15 psia, pages 18 and 41, and for the 100 percent speed, 24 psia data pages 22 and 45 of Appendix I. It thus appears that, in general, a small improvement has been obtained in diffuser efficiency at all pressure levels. It is of further interest to note that the trend observed in air is duplicated in the 100 percent speed data for the argon check points for both 7 and 15 psia inlet pressures.

A further check of all diffuser static pressure data at all speeds and pressures indicates that invariably the scroll recovery is considerably higher when it is preceded by the original diffuser for which it was designed.



CONCLUSIONS

The results of the tests indicate that:

1. Considerable difficulty is present in accurately measuring temperatures at very low pressure levels.
2. If the assumption is made that the impeller work input does not change over the range of Reynolds numbers tested, a reasonable correlation can be obtained of stage efficiency versus Reynolds number. For the compressor tested, this correlation indicates that for Reynolds numbers higher than those corresponding to its standard conditions, the efficiency increase is small but at lower Reynolds numbers, the efficiency drops approximately in accordance with the following relationship:

$$\left(\frac{1-\eta}{1-\eta_{ref}}\right) = \left(\frac{Re_{ref}}{Re}\right)^{0.2}$$

3. The argon check points confirmed the fact that it is possible to predict the performance of a given compressor geometry in one fluid from data taken in another fluid or different gas constant and ratio of specific heats. Exceptional accuracy was obtained in predicting peak efficiencies and surge flows, but predicted choke flows tended to be high.



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4. The overall performance of the configuration using the original diffuser tended to be higher than that obtained with the new diffuser. A breakdown of diffuser-scroll and impeller performance indicates that the lower overall performance observed with the redesigned diffuser results from a shifting of the peak diffuser-scroll efficiency point away from the impeller peak efficiency point. The peak efficiencies of both diffuser-scroll combinations are identical for all pressure levels.
5. Diffuser static pressure distributions indicate that the pressure recovery in the scroll is considerably lower when it follows the redesigned diffuser. This apparently results from an aerodynamic mismatch of the scroll with the new diffuser and also indicates that the new diffuser is slightly superior to the original at all pressure levels with respect to pressure recovery.



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RECOMMENDATIONS

Results of the compressor test program indicate that:

1. Temperature-sensing instrumentation at low pressure and low-flow conditions needs further development to achieve the accuracy required for compressor evaluation.
2. Further effort in improving the match between the impeller scroll, and diffuser would provide only a slight increase in overall efficiency. Experience to date would indicate that a greater increase in overall efficiency can be obtained from further impeller development.



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REFERENCES

1. Carson, A. B., "A Study of the Effect of a Vortex Sheet on the Temperature Distribution in a Fluid Stream Initially Containing Temperature Stratification," ASU Report (15 Sept. 1959).
2. Haig, Laurence B, "A Design Procedure for Thermocouple Probes," SAE 158C-60 (1960).
3. Freeze, Paul D. and Caldwell, Frank R., "Performance Tests of Jet-Engine Thermocouples," WADC Technical Report 56-476 (ASTIA AD-120 863)(1956).
4. Wormser, Alex F., "Experimental Determination of Thermocouple Time Constants with Use of a Variable Turbulence, Variable Density Wind Tunnel and the Analytic Evaluation of Conduction, Radiation and Other Secondary Effects," SAE 158 D-60 (1960).



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APPENDIX I

STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION

The following curves show the static pressure distribution along the centerline of the two diffusers, Parts 369748-20 and 871034. It should be noted that the pressures as presented must be corrected for the transducer calibration shown in Figure 34 of the main text. The following is a summary of the curves, by page number, presented in the appendix.

DIFFUSER PART 369748-20 (31 PSIA INLET DESIGN)

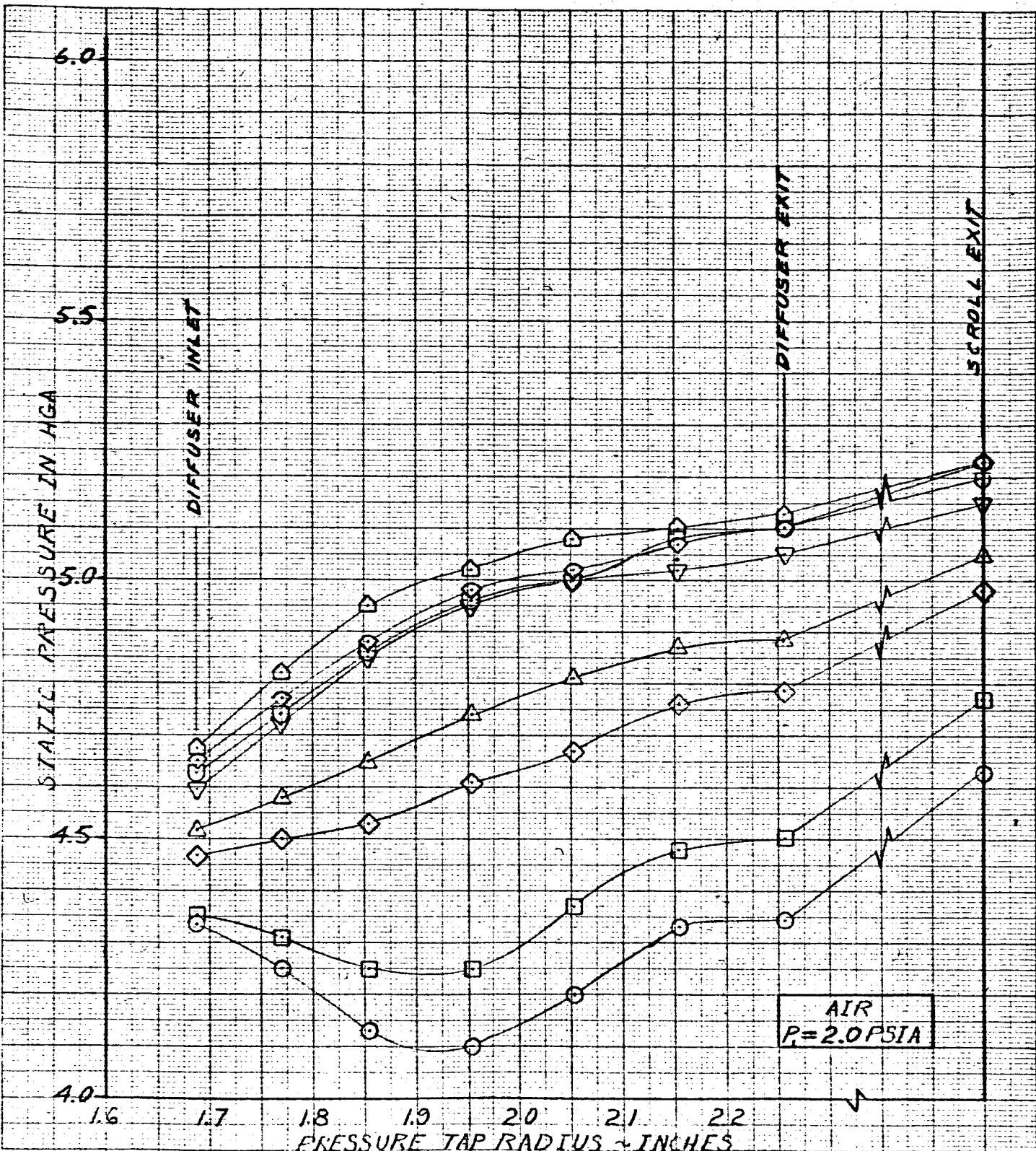
	Inlet Pressure, psia				
	2	4	7	15	24
AIR					
Speed line, $\frac{\%N}{\sqrt{\theta}}$ = 70	3	7	11	15	19
= 80	4	8	12	16	20
= 90	5	9	13	17	21
= 100	6	10	14	18	22
ARGON					
Speed line, $\frac{\%N}{\sqrt{\theta}} = 100$			23	24	25



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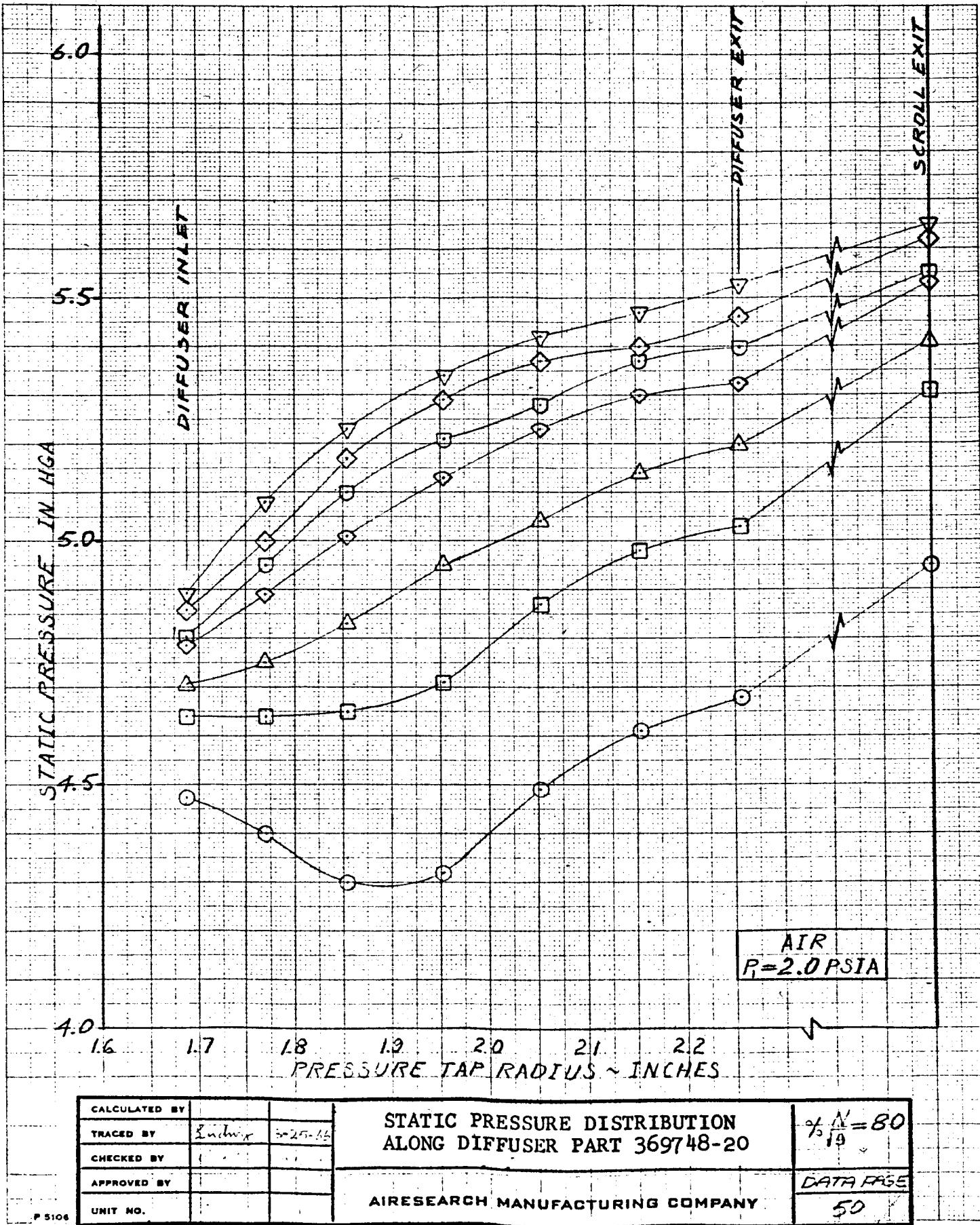
DIFFUSER, PART 871034
(4 PSIA INLET DESIGN)

		Inlet Pressure, psia				
		2	4	7	15	24
AIR						
Speed 1in, % N/ $\sqrt{\theta}$	= 70	26	30	34	38	42
	= 80	27	31	35	39	43
	= 90	28	32	36	40	44
	= 100	29	33	37	41	45
ARGON						
Speed line, % N/ $\sqrt{\theta}$	= 100			46	47	



CALCULATED BY	
TRACED BY	Zindani 3-27-64
CHECKED BY
APPROVED BY	
UNIT NO.	

STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION ALONG DIFFUSER PART 369746-20		$\frac{N}{10} = 70$
AIRESEARCH MANUFACTURING COMPANY		DATA PAGE 50



P 5106

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CALCULATED BY	
TRACED BY	Endres 3-26-66
CHECKED BY	
APPROVED BY	
UNIT NO.	

STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION
ALONG DIFFUSER PART 369748-20

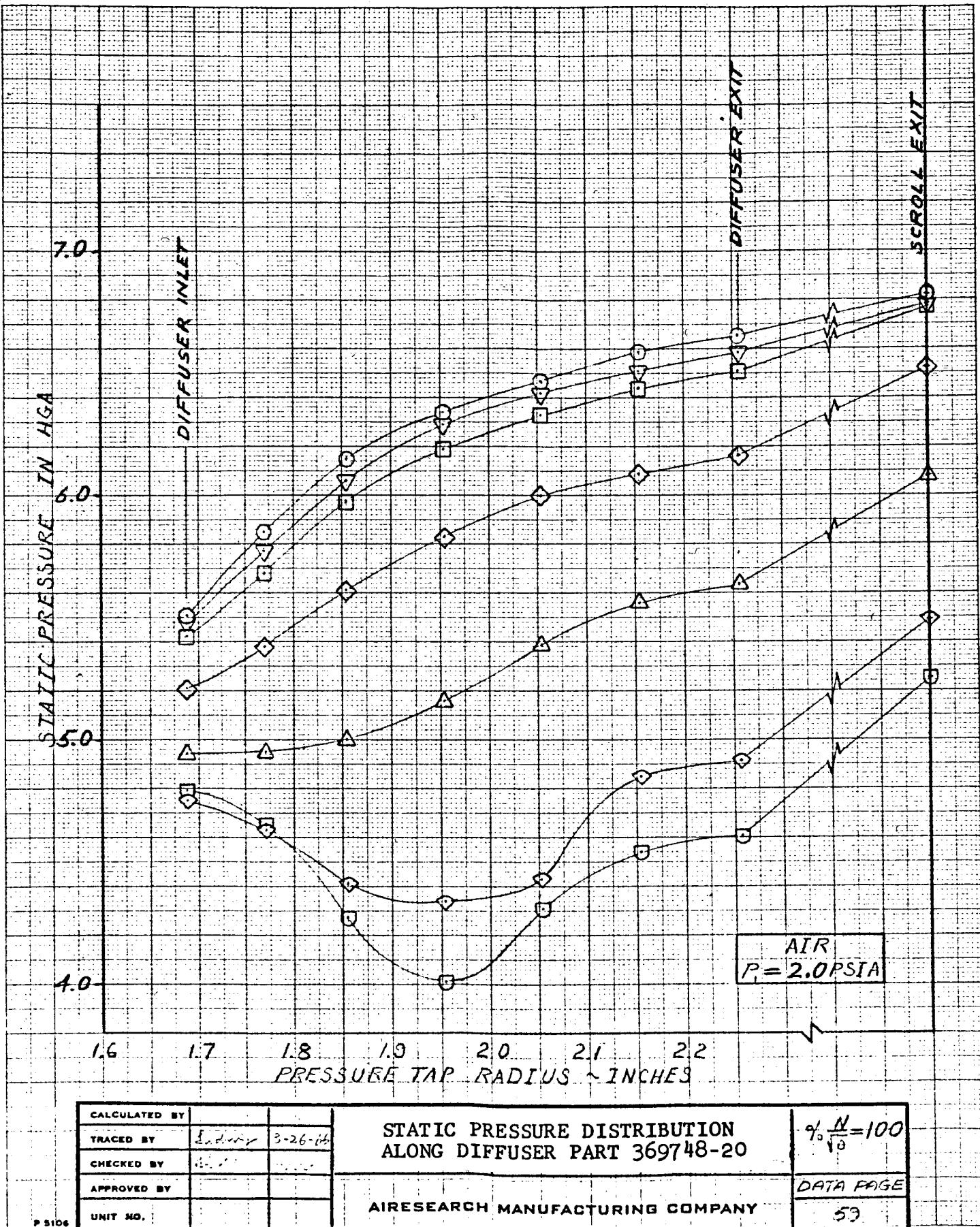
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AIRESEARCH MANUFACTURING COMPANY

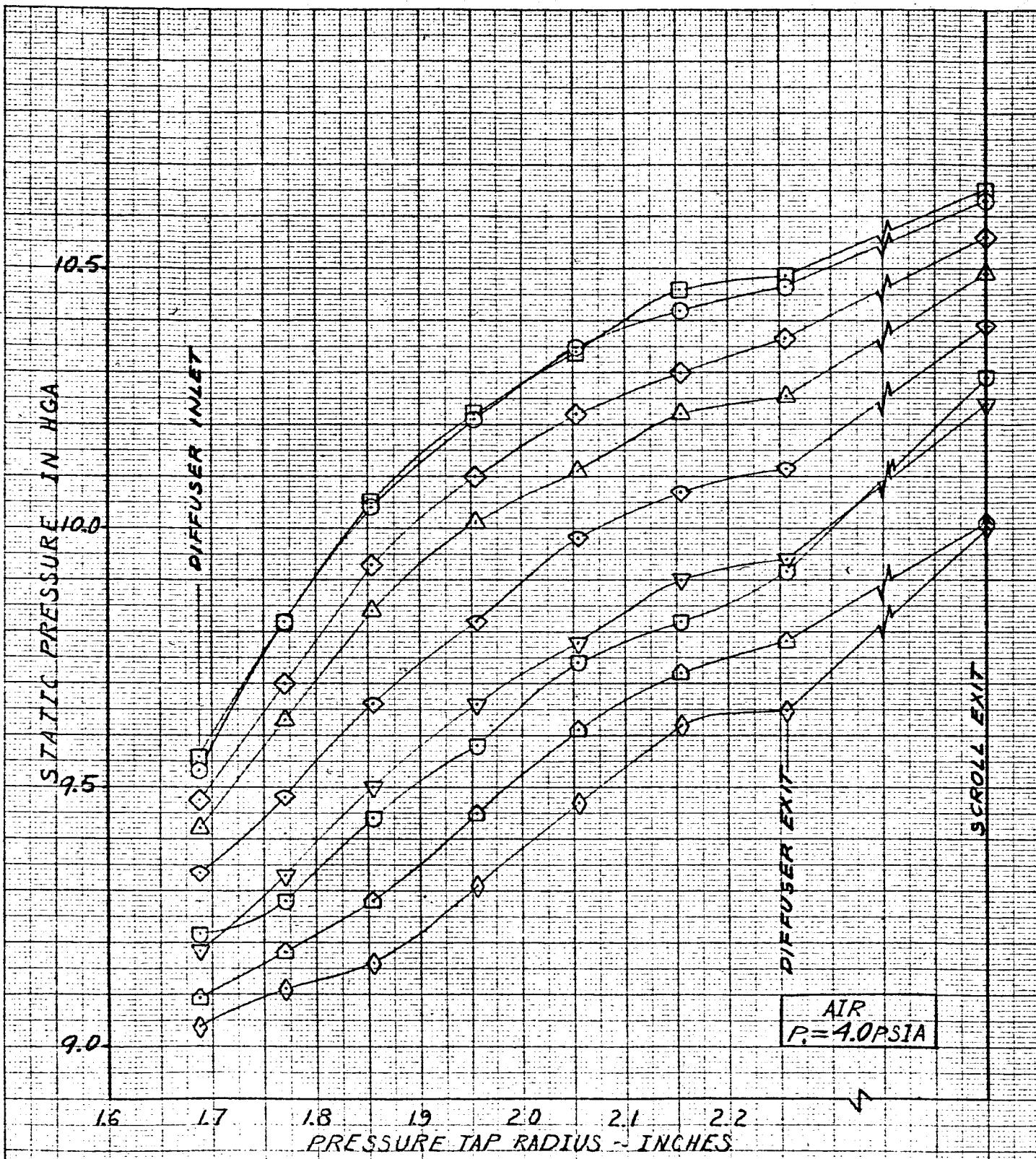
LAST PAGE

51

P5108

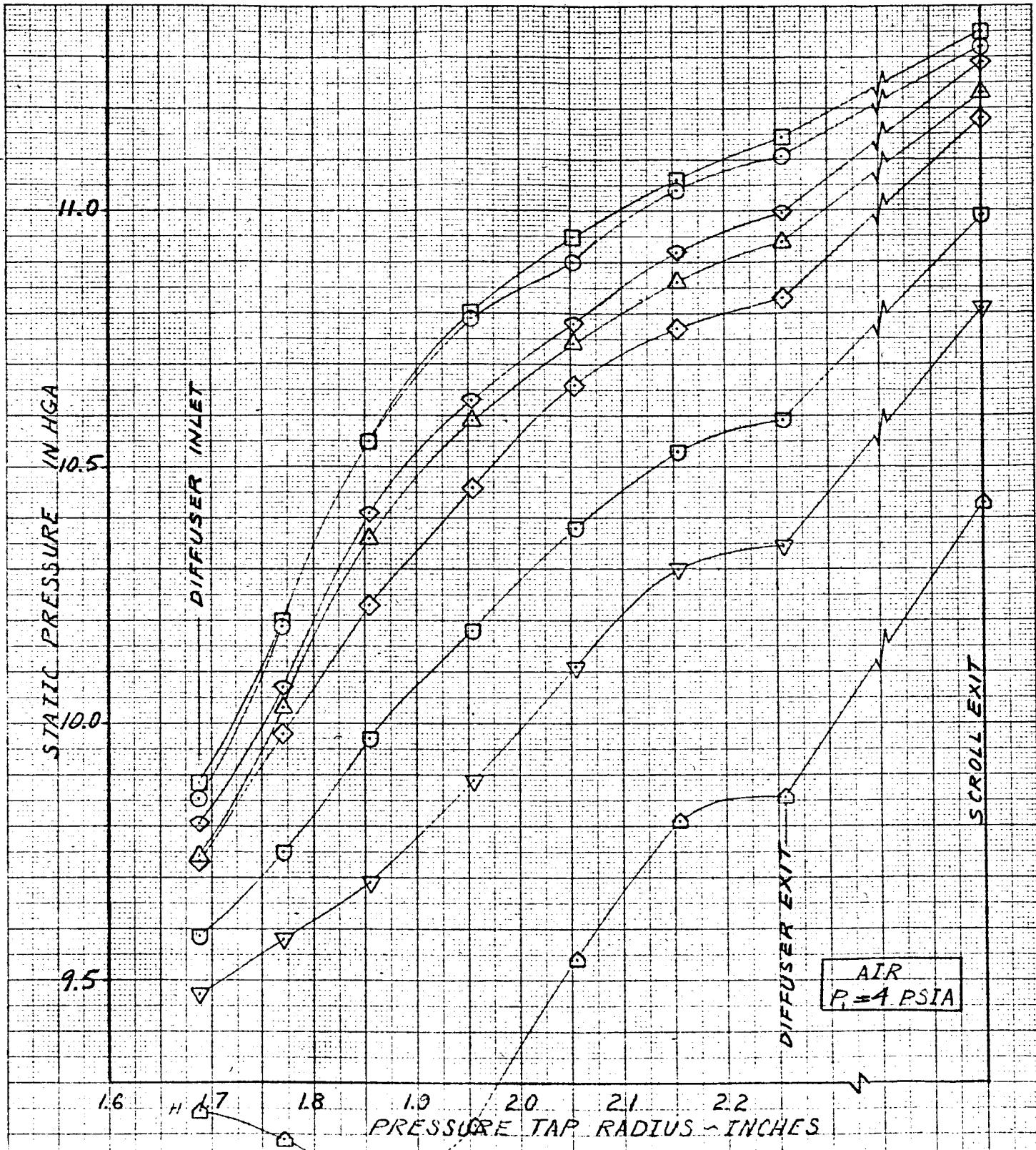


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Page 6



CALCULATED BY		STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION ALONG DIFFUSER PART 369748-20	$\frac{N}{f_0} = 70$
TRACED BY	Zachrisson 3-26-16		
CHECKED BY			
APPROVED BY			
UNIT NO.	1		
P 5106			DATA PAGE
			51

AIRESEARCH MANUFACTURING COMPANY



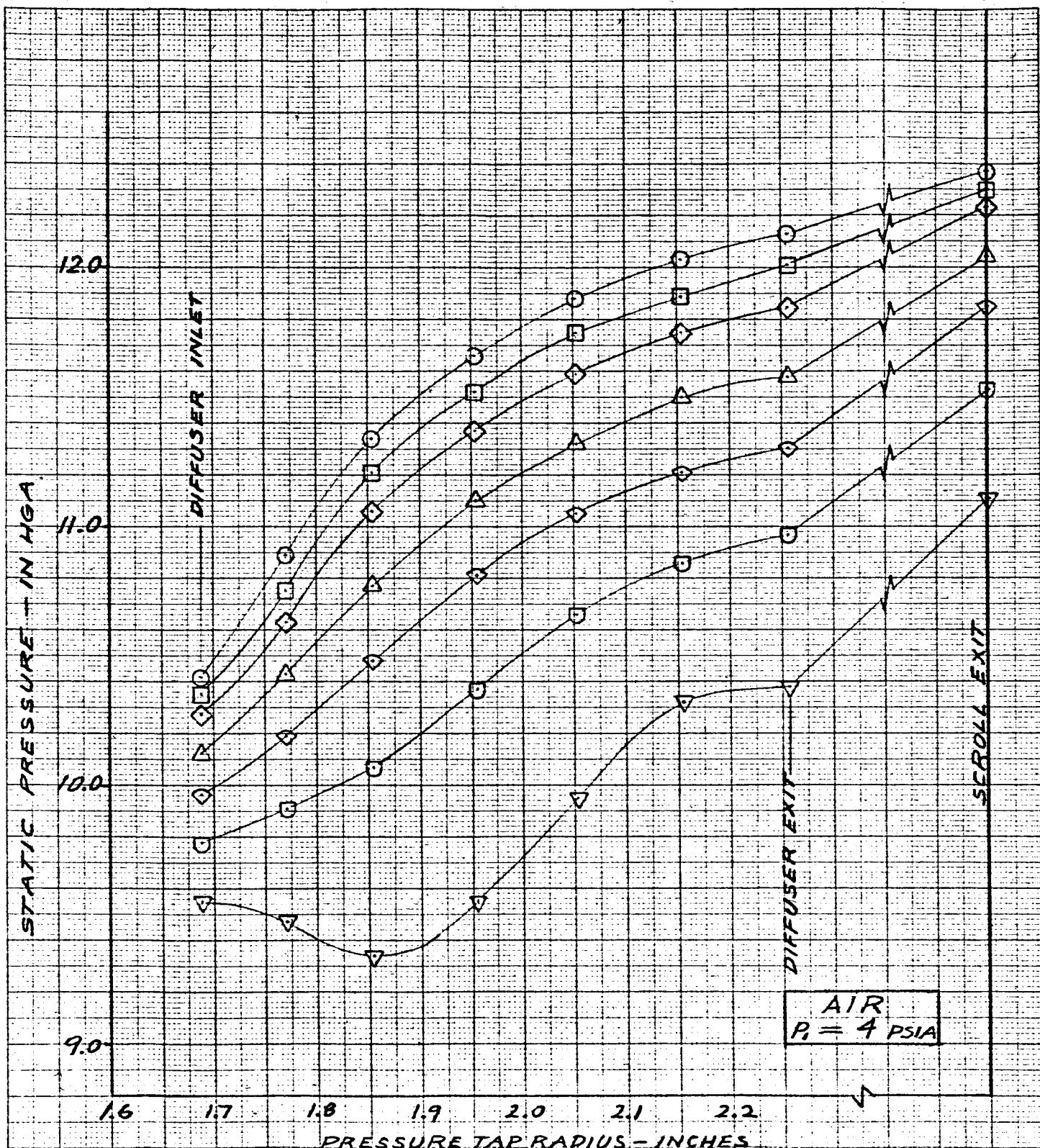
STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION
ALONG DIFFUSER PART 369748-20

$$\% \frac{N}{10} = 80$$

DATA PAGE
52

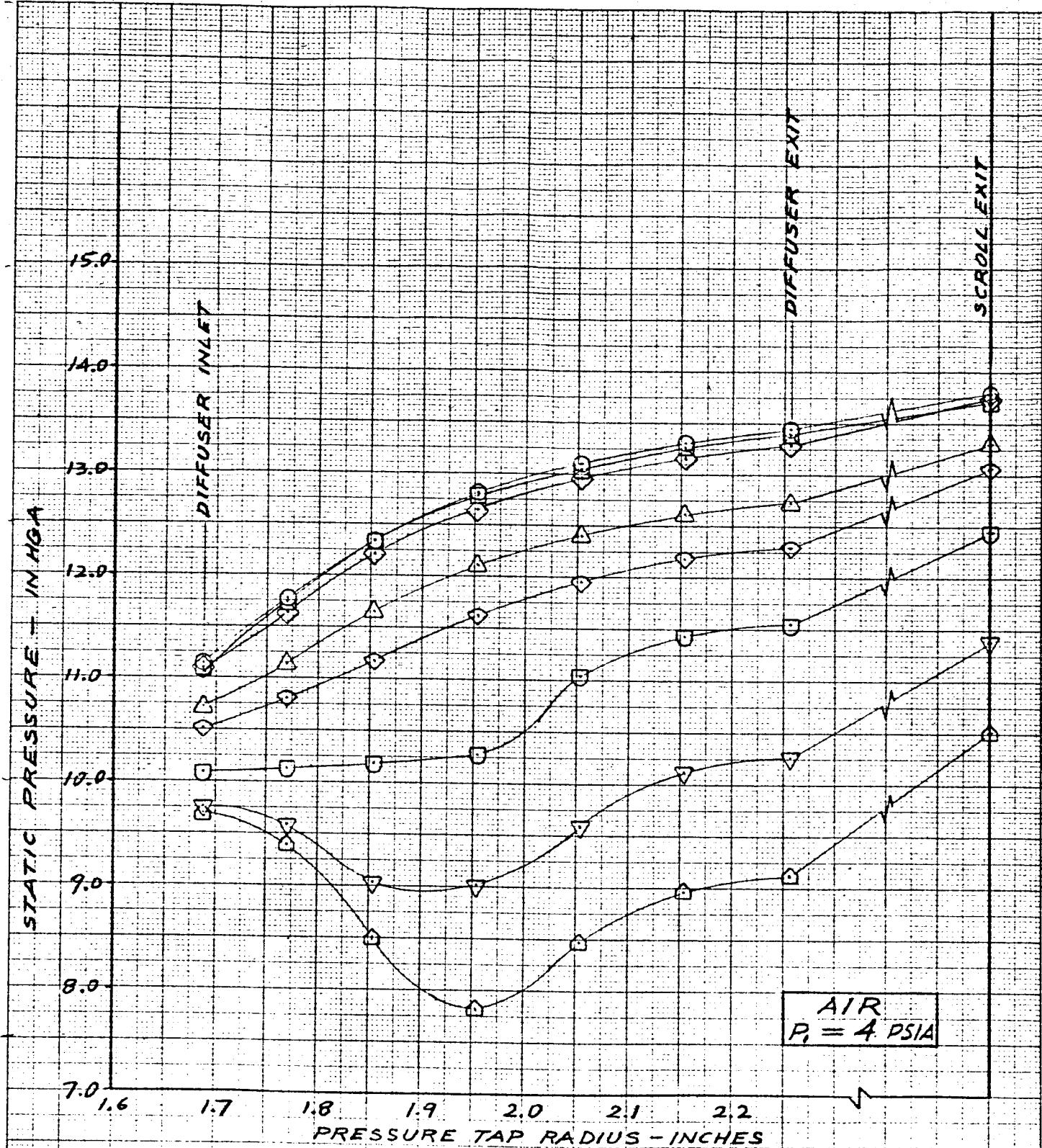
P 5106

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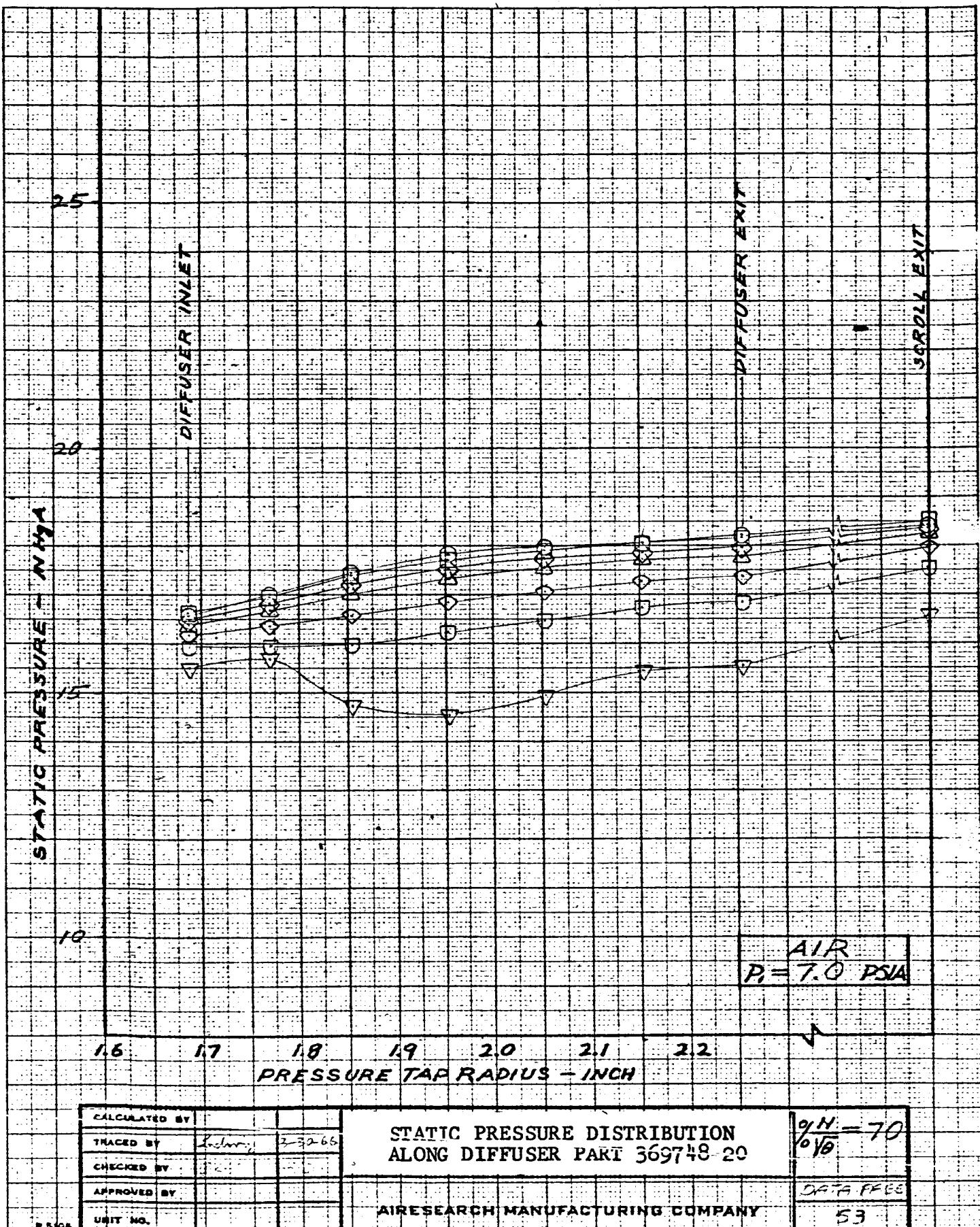
STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION
 ALONG DIFFUSER PART 369748-20

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CALCULATED BY			DATA PAGE 58, 59
TRACED BY	Indiv	3-26-66	
CHECKED BY			
APPROVED BY			
UNIT NO.		STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION ALONG DIFFUSER PART 369748-20	$\frac{\% N}{\sqrt{V_B}} = 100$
		AIRESEARCH MANUFACTURING COMPANY	

P 5106



25

STATIC PRESSURE - INCH

DIFFUSER INLET

20

CROSS

15

CROSS

10

CROSS

1.6

1.7

1.8

1.9

2.0

2.1

2.2

PRESSURE TAP RADIUS - INCH

AIR
 $P_1 = 7.0 \text{ PSIA}$

CALCULATED BY	
TRACED BY	J. W. H. 5-3-66
CHECKED BY	
APPROVED BY	
UNIT NO.	

STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION
ALONG DIFFUSER PART 369748-20

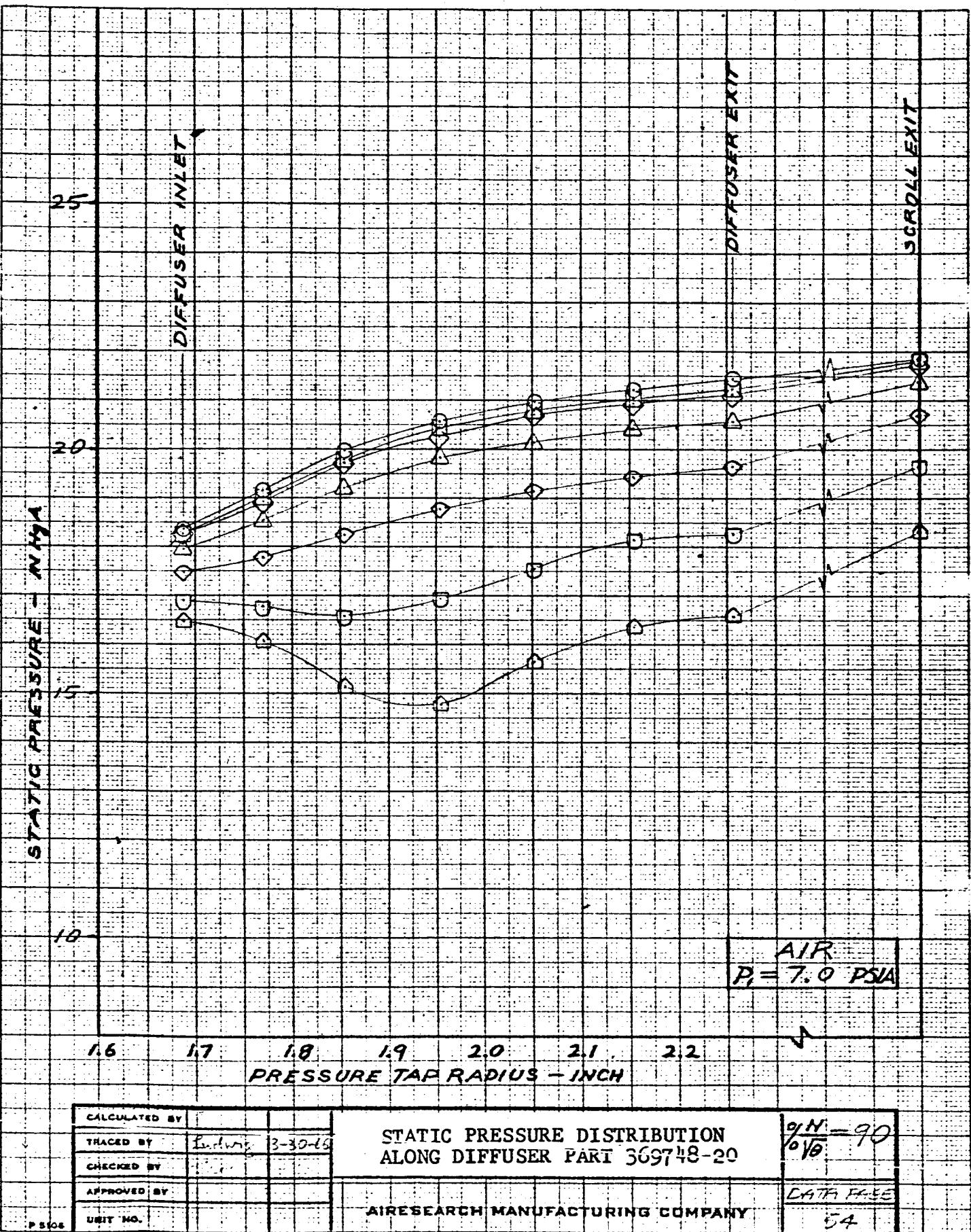
AIRESEARCH MANUFACTURING COMPANY

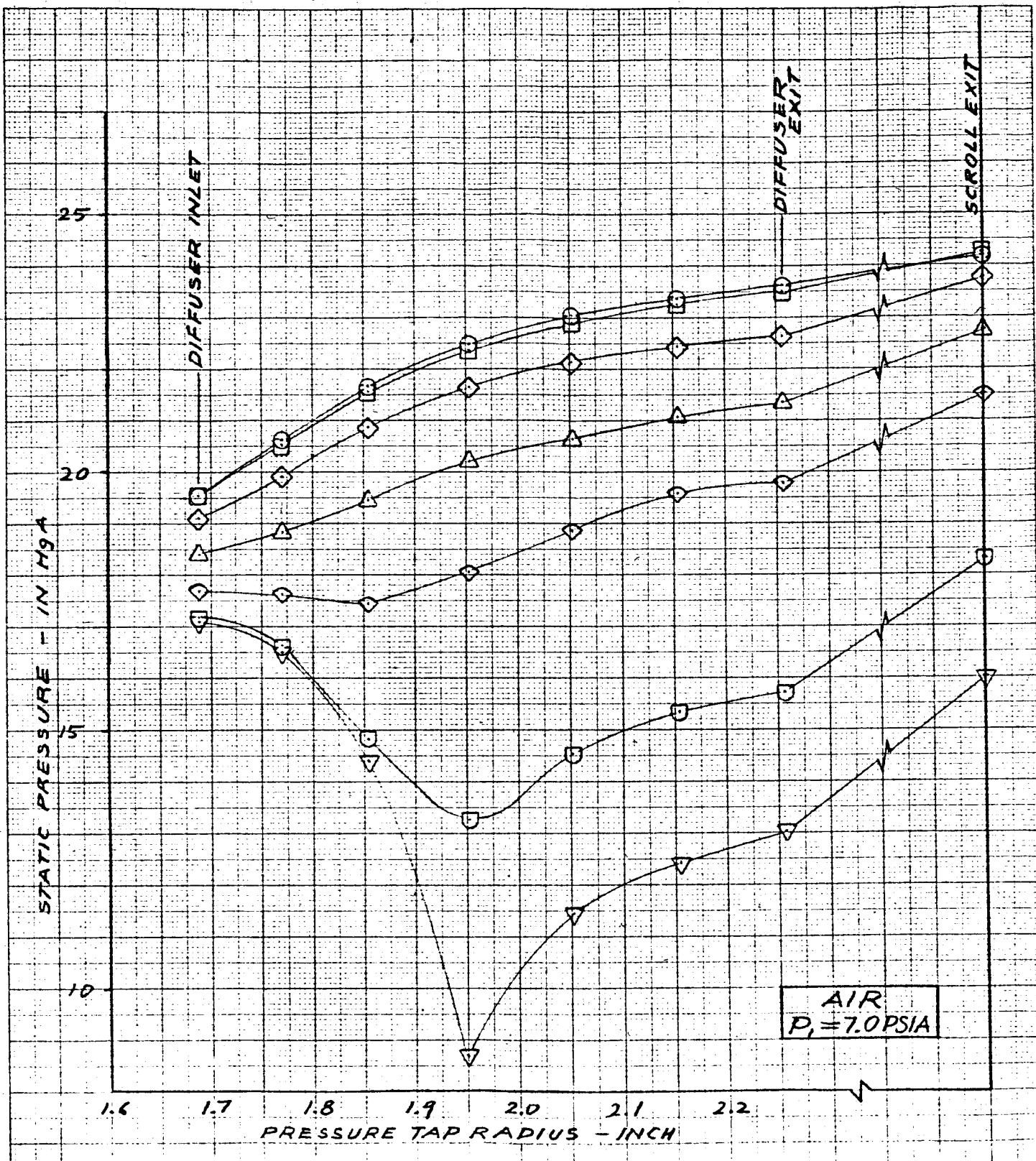
$\frac{\partial N}{\partial Y} = 80$

T-2 AC35

AB

P 3106

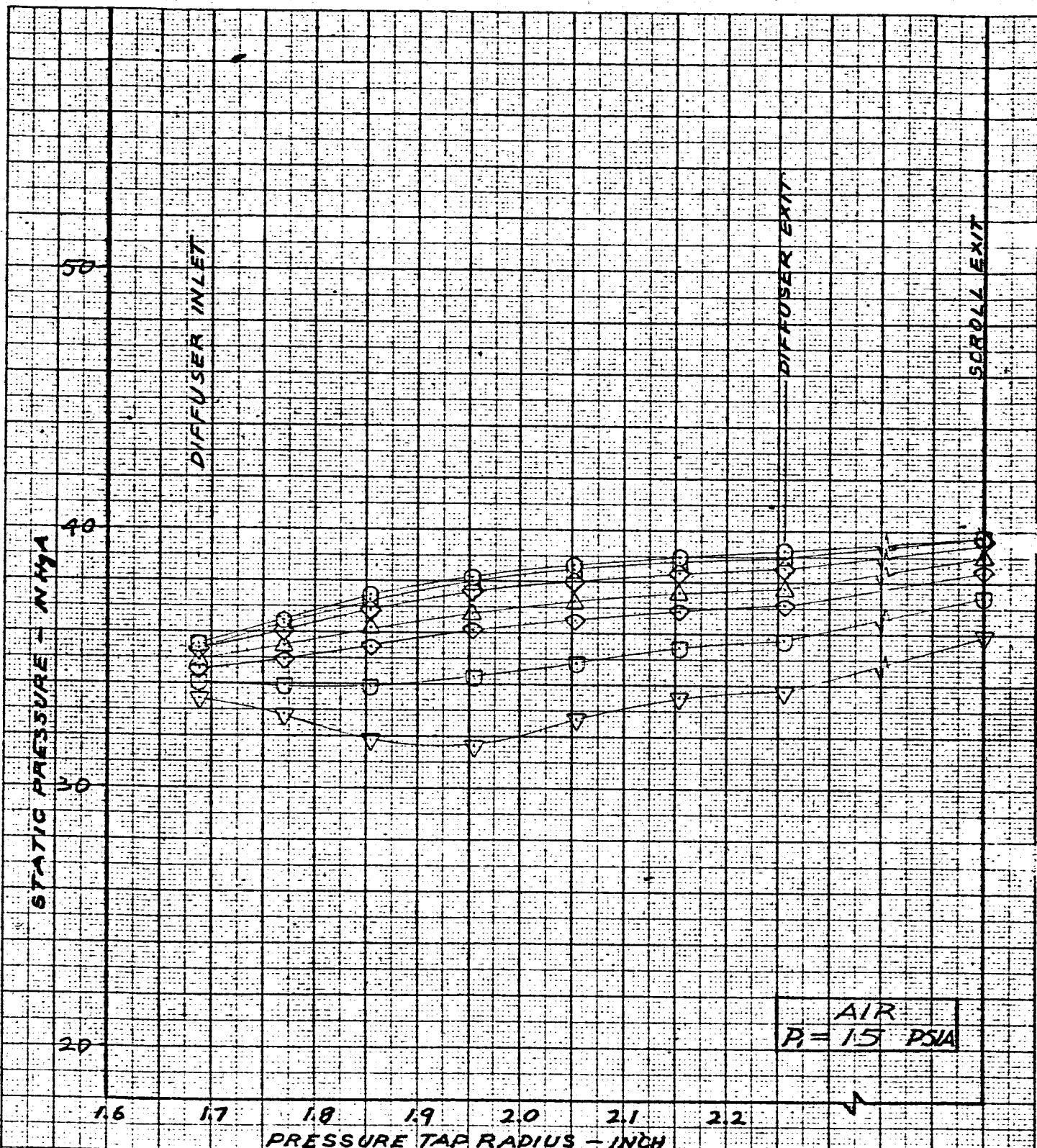




CALCULATED BY	Traced by	STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION ALONG DIFFUSER PART 369748-20	$\frac{\rho N}{\rho V \theta} = 100$
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CHECKED BY			
APPROVED BY			DATA FILED
UNIT NO.			58

P 5106

AIRESEARCH MANUFACTURING COMPANY



CALCULATED BY		STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION ALONG DIFFUSER PART 369748-20			$\rho/\rho_0 = 70$
TRACED BY	V.G.Z.				
CHECKED BY					
APPROVED BY					
PSIG	UNIT NO.	AIRESEARCH MANUFACTURING COMPANY			DATA PAGE

STATIC PRESSURE - INCH MM

50

40

30

20

1.6 1.7 1.8 1.9 2.0 2.1 2.2
PRESSURE TAP RADIUS - INCH

DIFFUSER INLET

DIFFUSER EXIT

SCROLL EXIT

AIR
 $P_1 = 15 \text{ PSIA}$

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CHECKED BY	
APPROVED BY	
UNIT NO.	

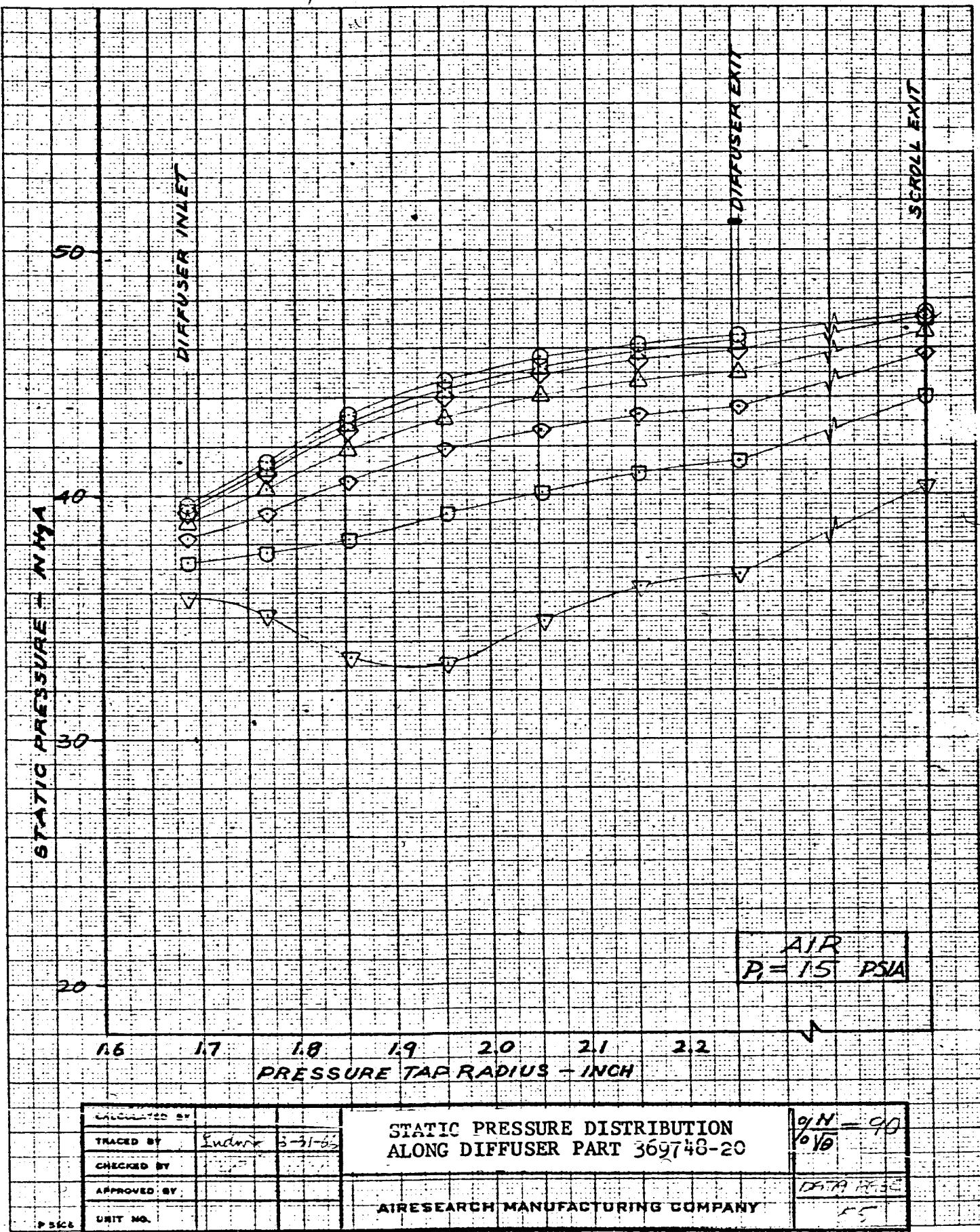
STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION
ALONG DIFFUSER PART 369748-20

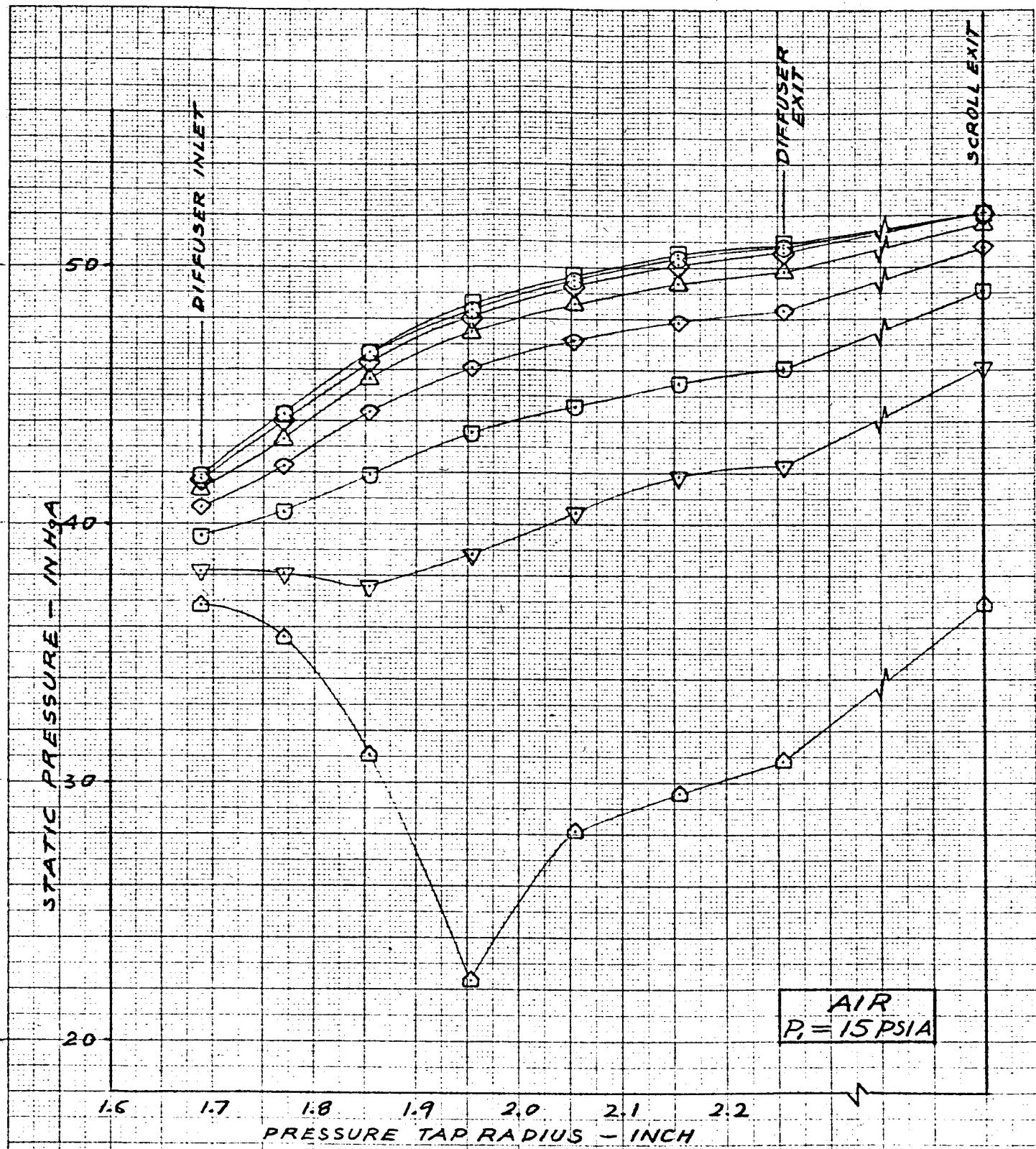
$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial r} = 80$$

55

F806

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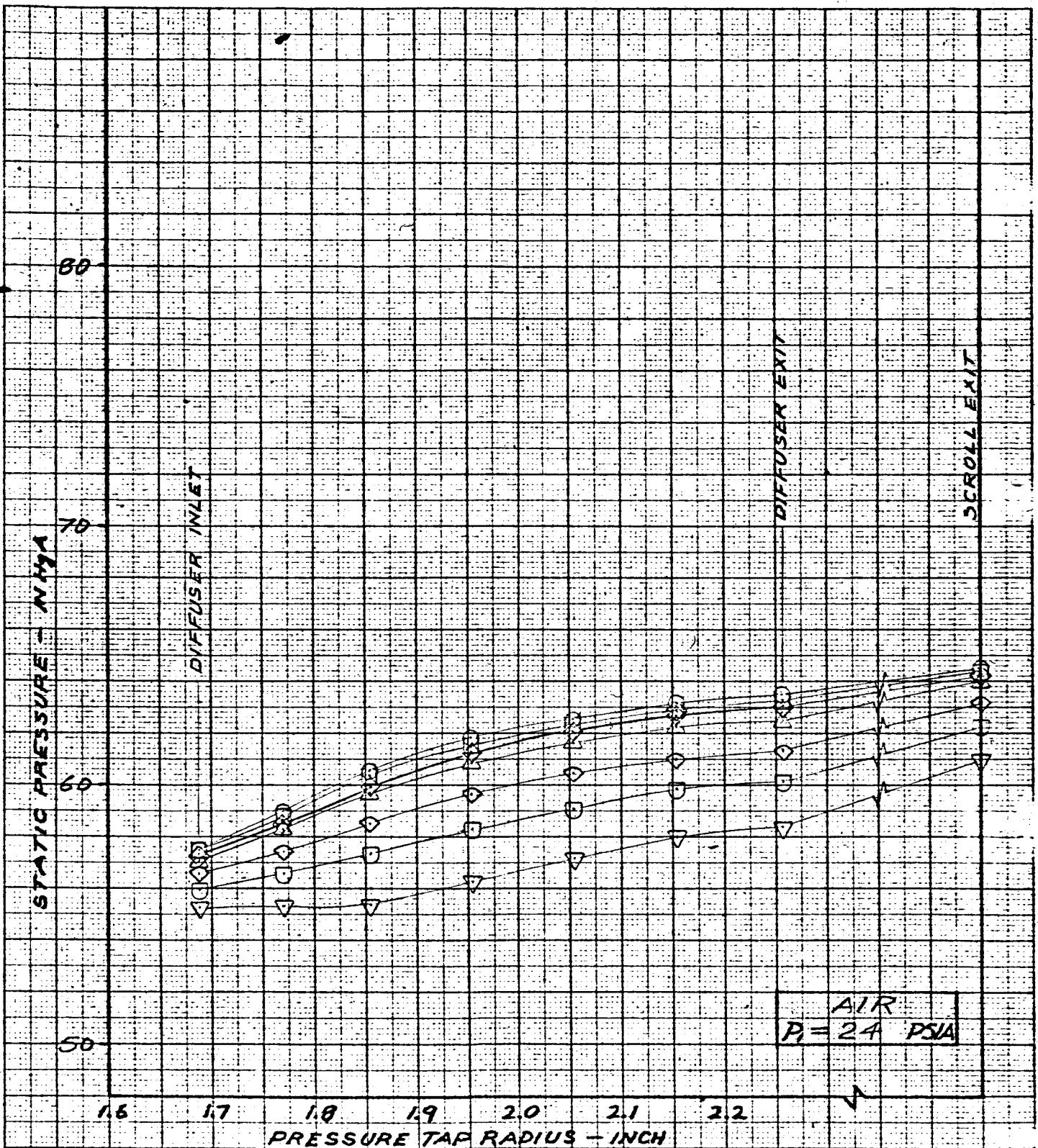
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TRACED BY	E. L. M.
CHECKED BY	J. C. S.
APPROVED BY	
UNIT NO.	

STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION
ALONG DIFFUSER PART 369748-20

$\frac{\rho_N}{\rho_{10}} = 100$
DATA PAGE 57, 59

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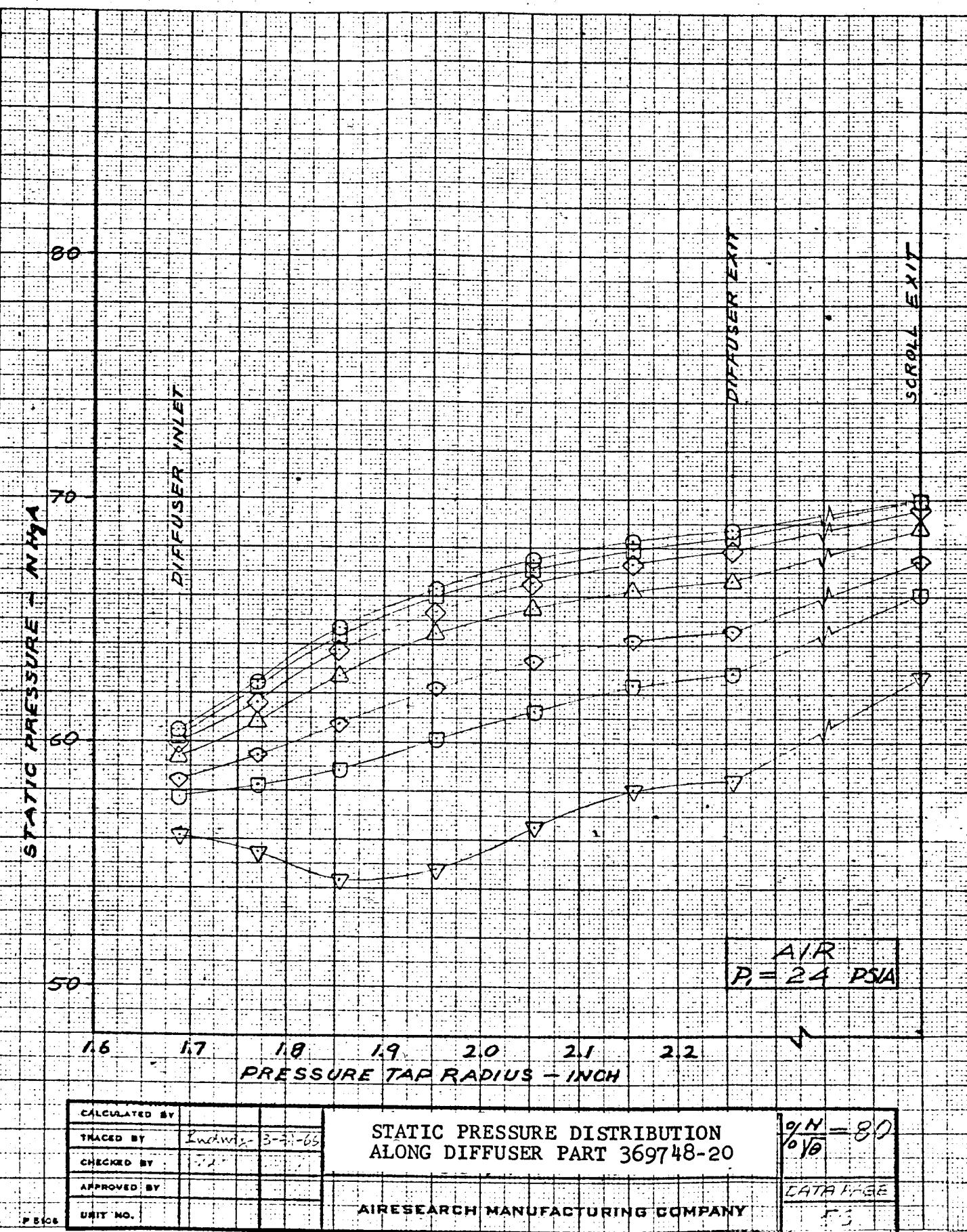
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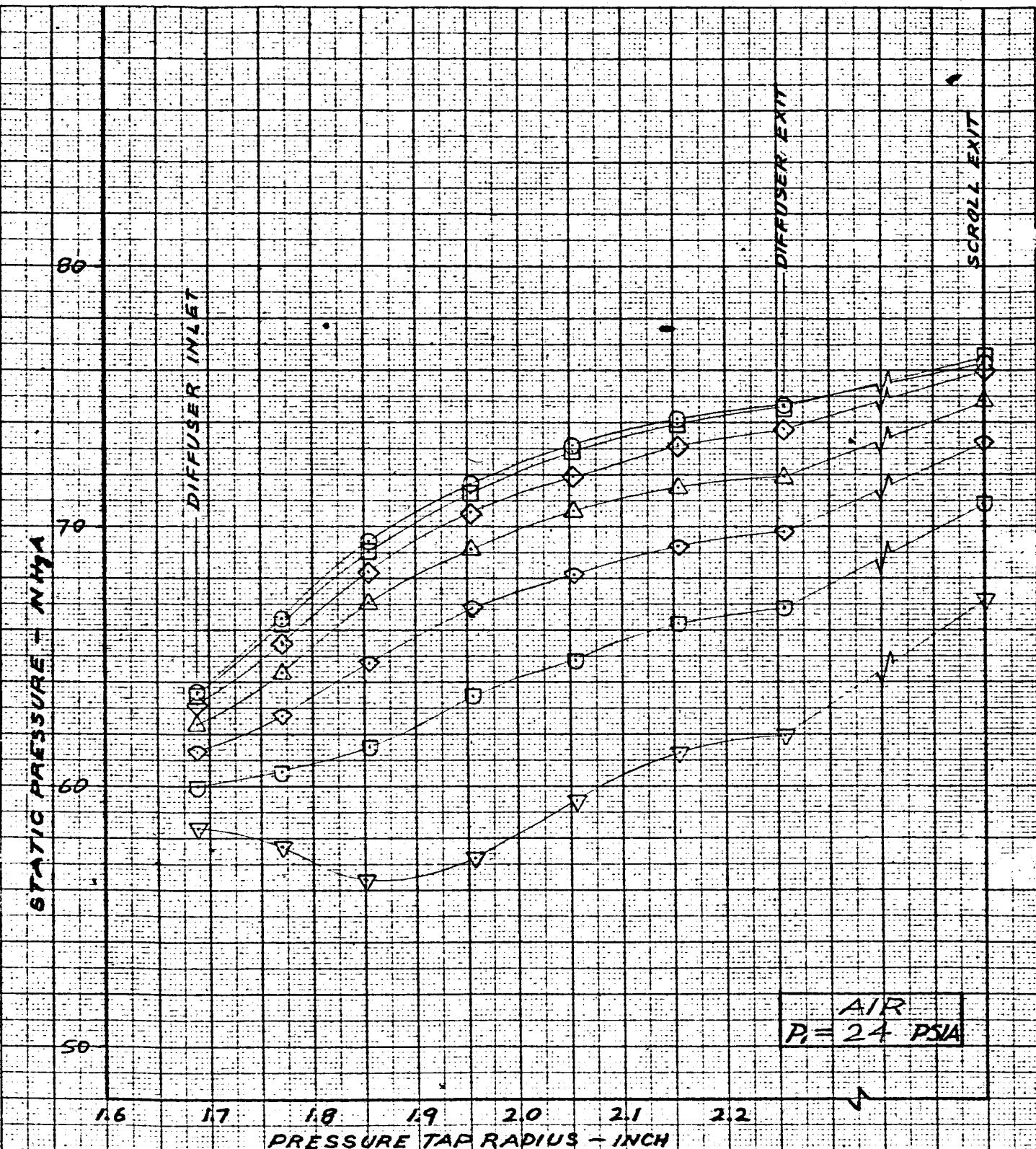
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CHECKED BY			
APPROVED BY			
UNIT NO.			$\frac{\partial N}{\partial V} = 70$

STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION
ALONG DIFFUSER PART 369748-20

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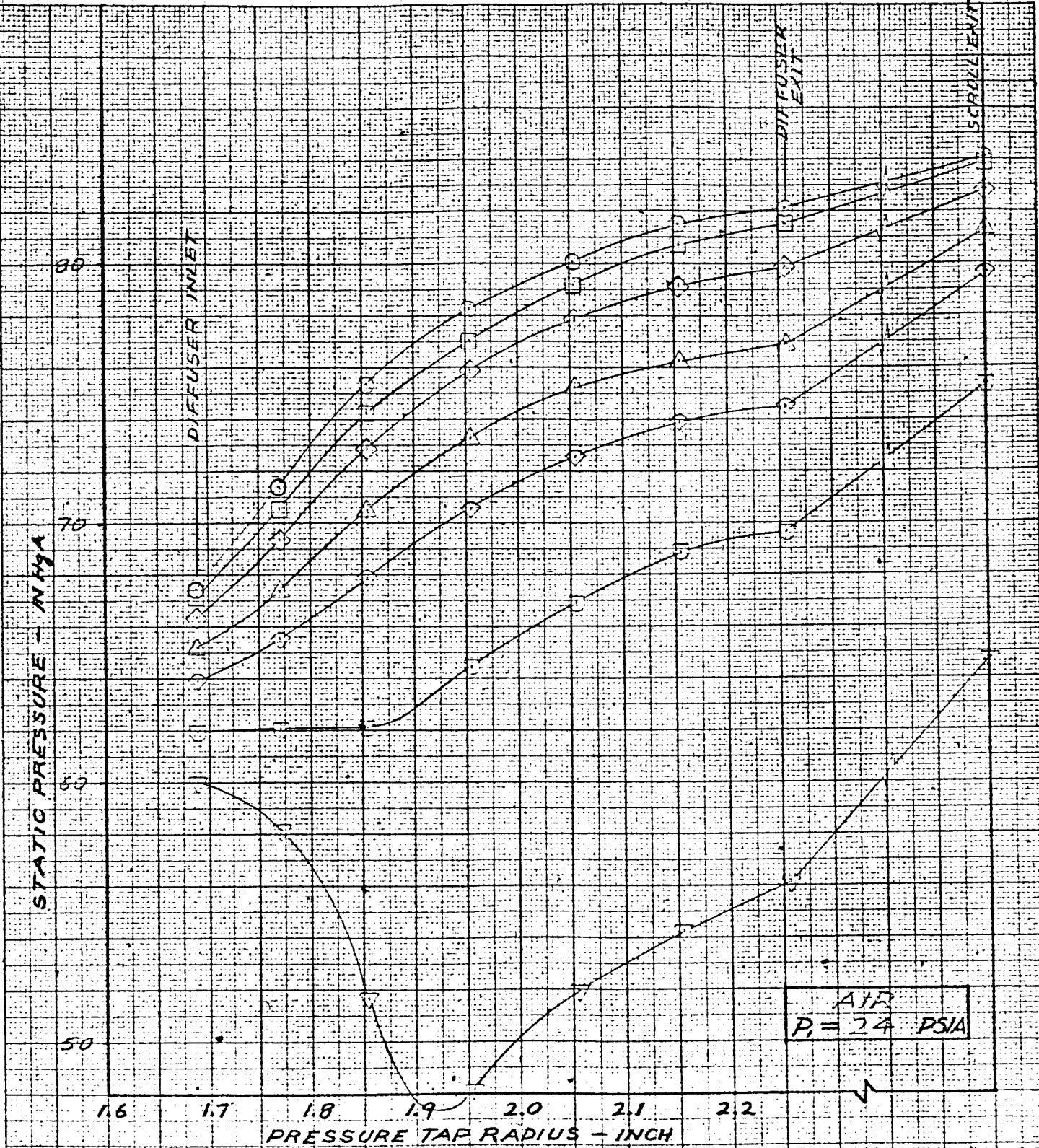
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CHECKED BY		
APPROVED BY		
UNIT NO.		

STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION
ALONG DIFFUSER PART 369748-20

AIRESEARCH MANUFACTURING COMPANY

%N = 90
%V =

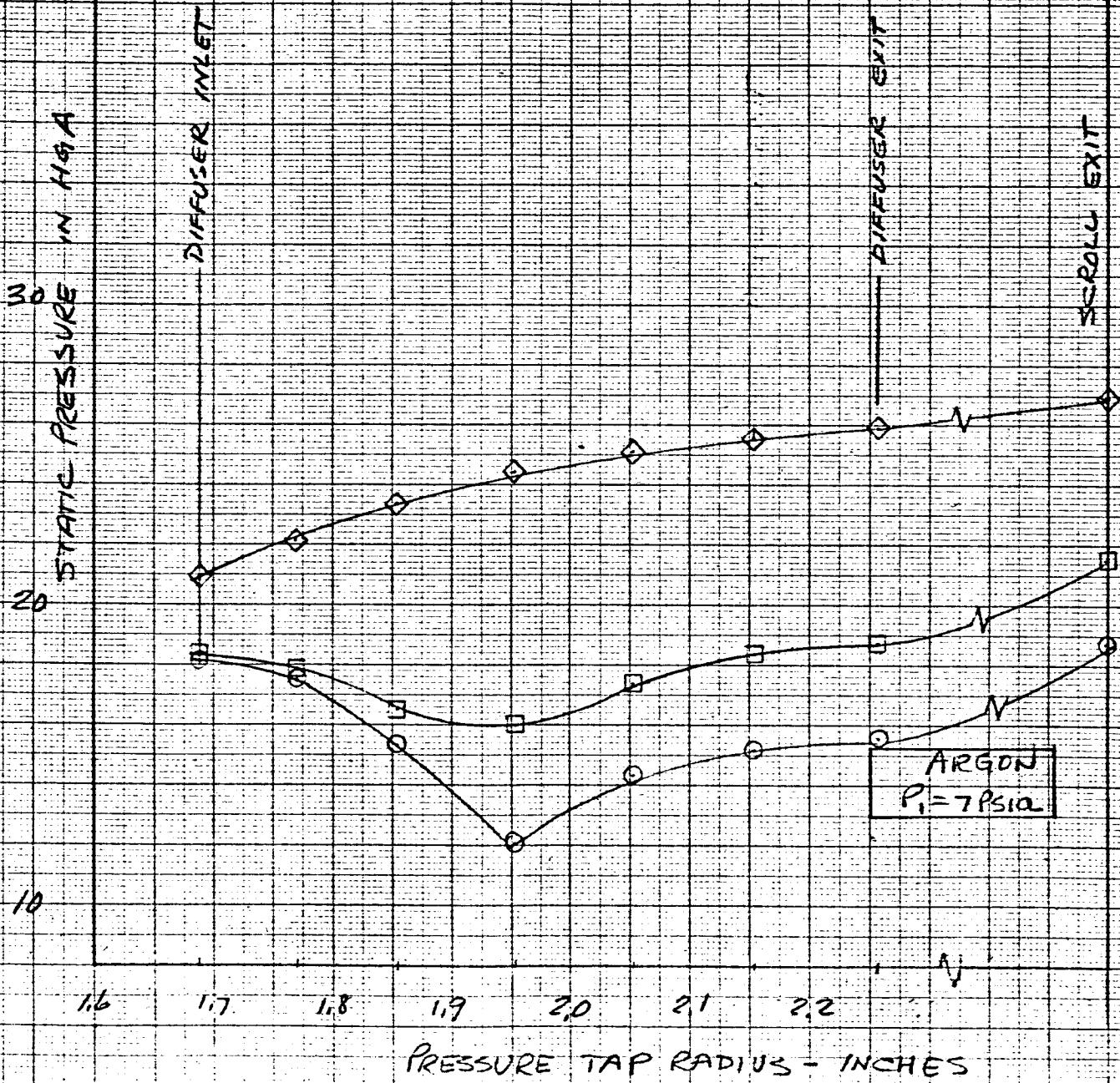
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APPROVED BY		
UNIT NO.		57

STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION
ALONG DIFFUSER PART 369748-20

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CHECKED BY	
APPROVED BY	
UNIT NO.	

STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION
ALONG DIFFUSER PART 369748-20

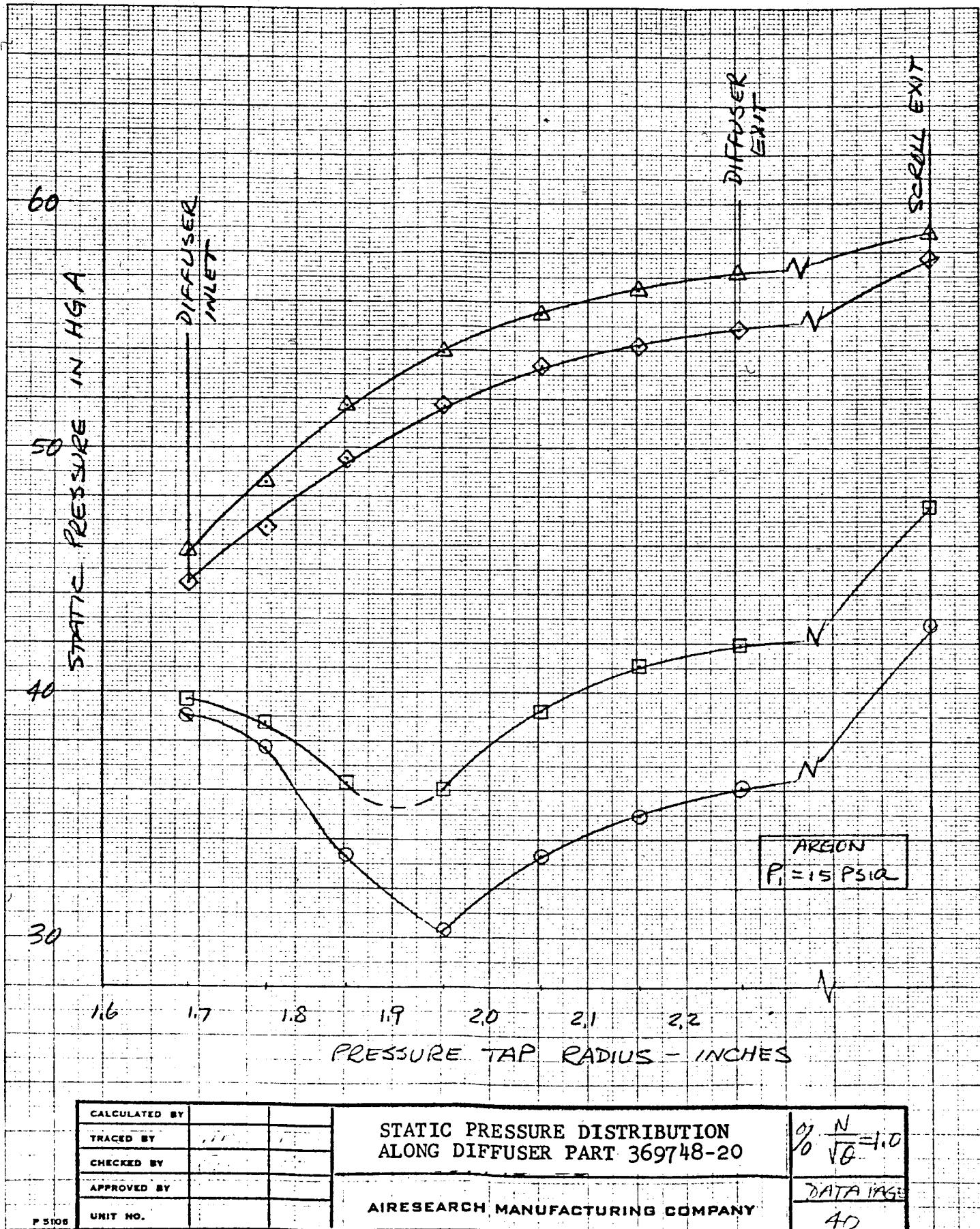
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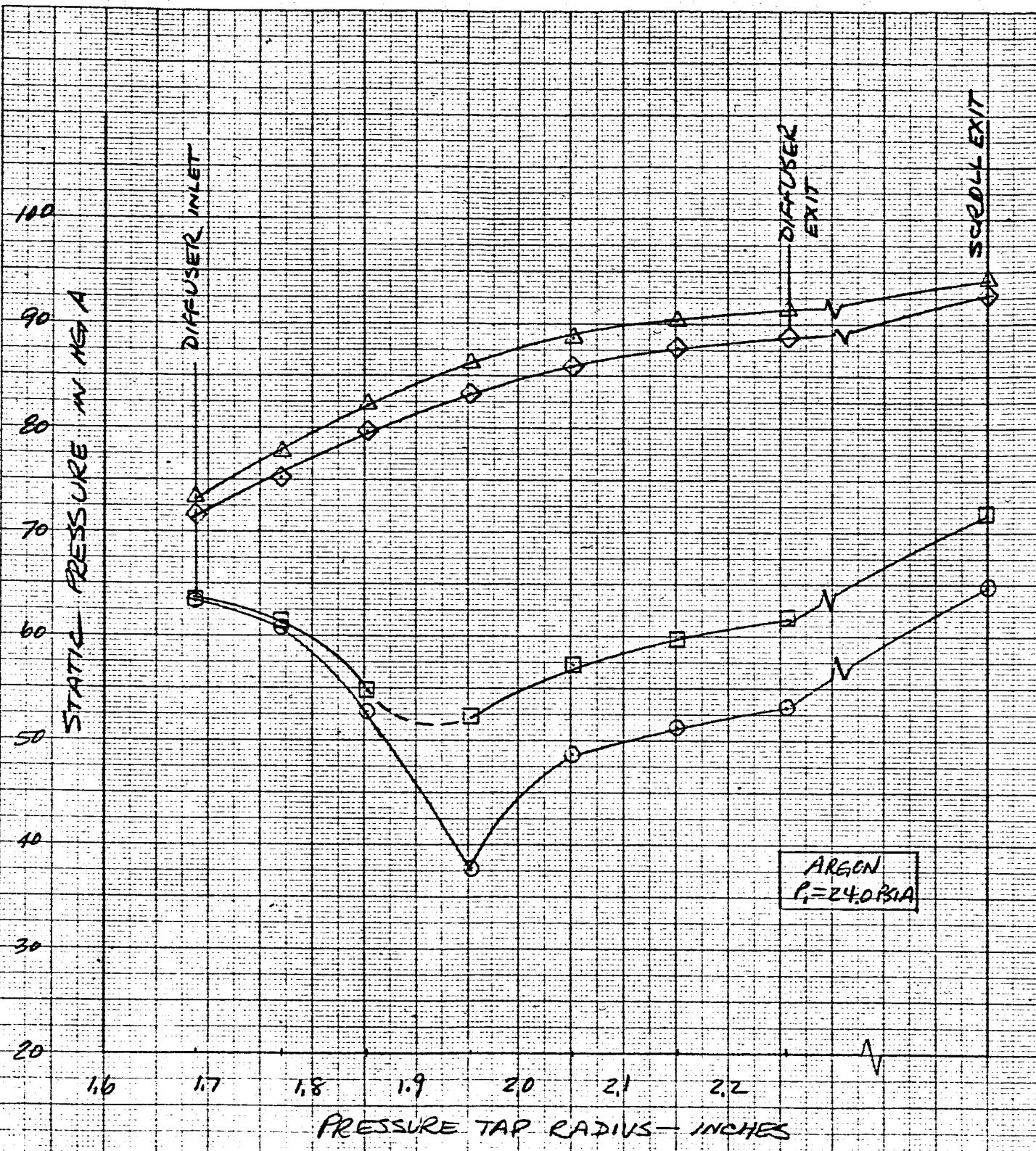
$$\frac{P}{P_1} = 1.0$$

DATASHEET

41

P B108





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TRACED BY	PC
CHECKED BY	
APPROVED BY	
UNIT NO.	

STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION
ALONG DIFFUSER PART 369748-20

$\frac{g}{N} = 1.0$
DATA PAGE

40

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7.0

6.0

STATIC PRESSURE - INCHES

DIFFUSER EXIT

5.0

4.0

1.6 1.7 1.8 1.9 2.0 2.1 2.2

PRESSURE TAP RADIUS - INCH

DIFFUSER EXIT

SCROLL EXIT

AIR
 $P_1 = 2.0 \text{ PSIA}$

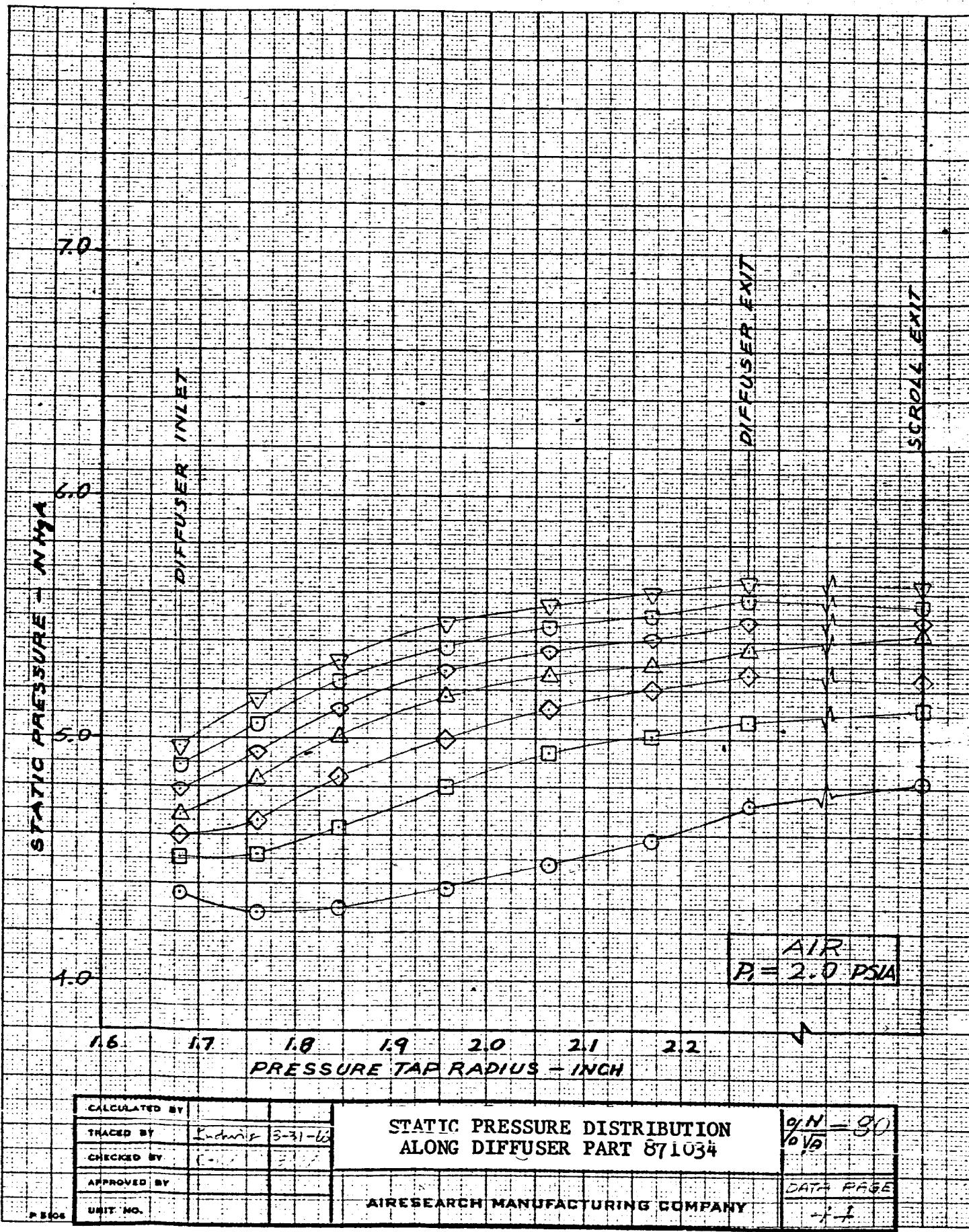
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UNIT NO.	

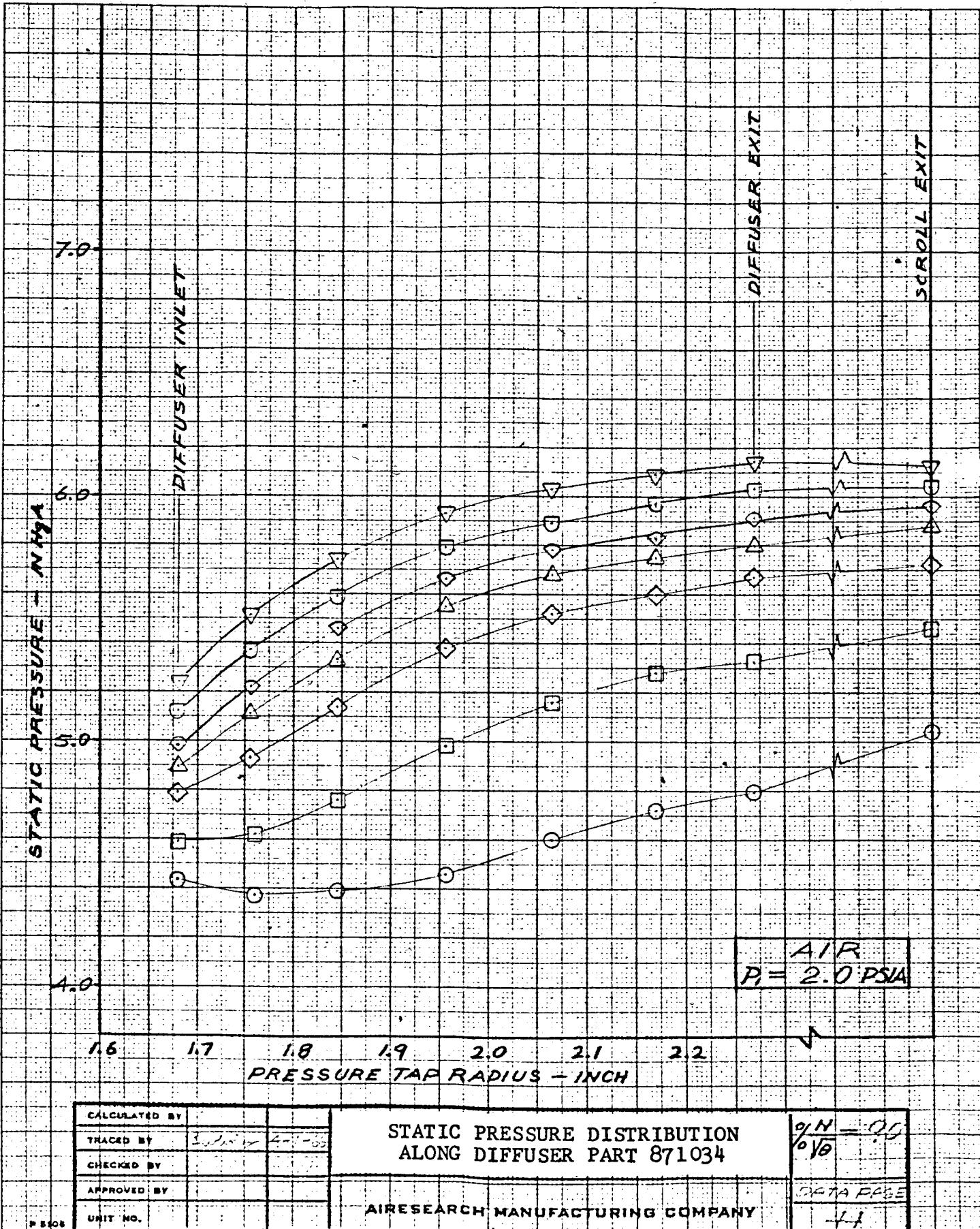
STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION
ALONG DIFFUSER PART 871034

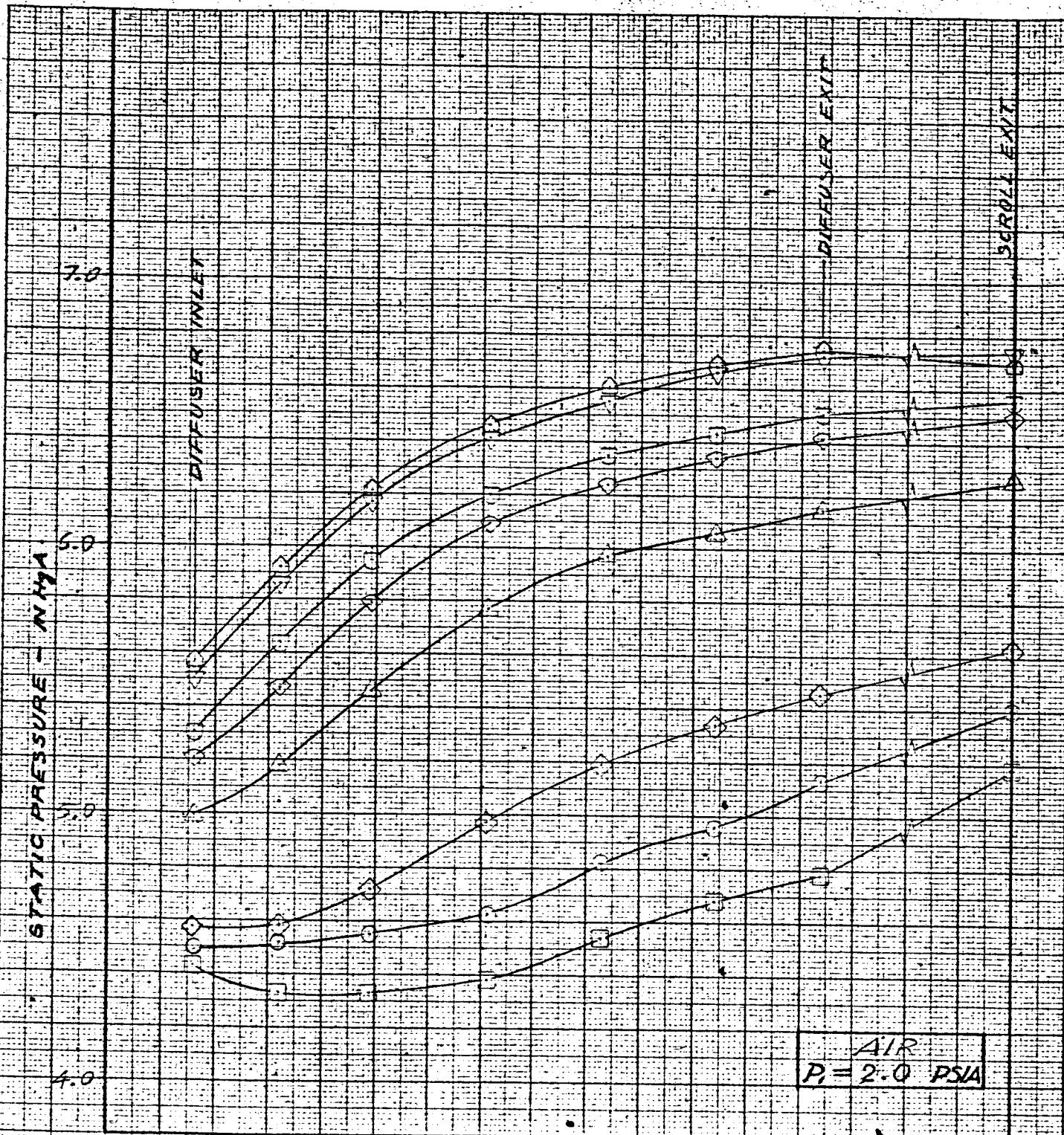
% N	= 70
% Vθ	
CATA PAGE	15

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PSIG



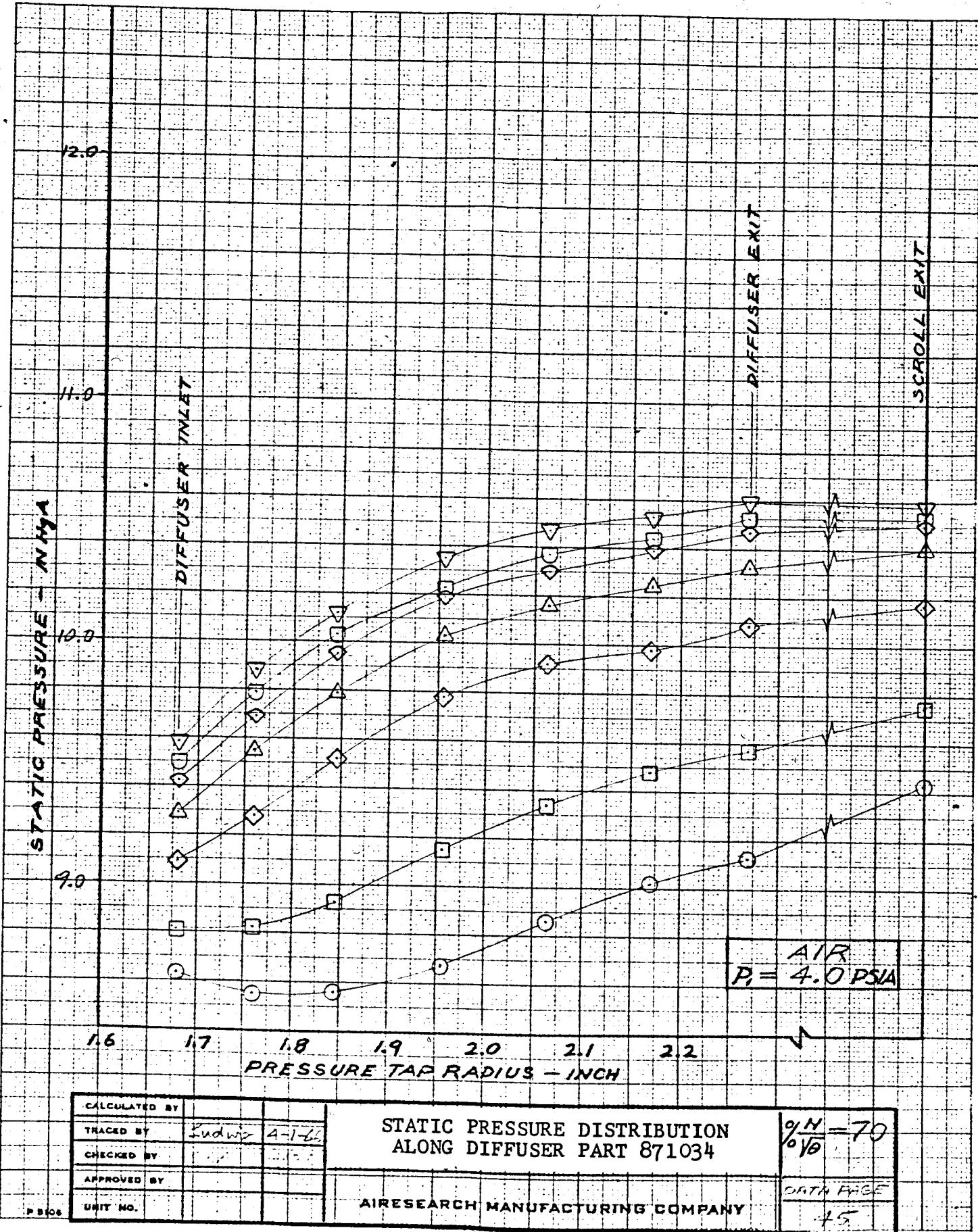




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TRACED BY	Judwin 3-23-61
CHECKED BY	
APPROVED BY	
UNIT NO.	

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		% V - 100
		DATA PAGE 1, 15

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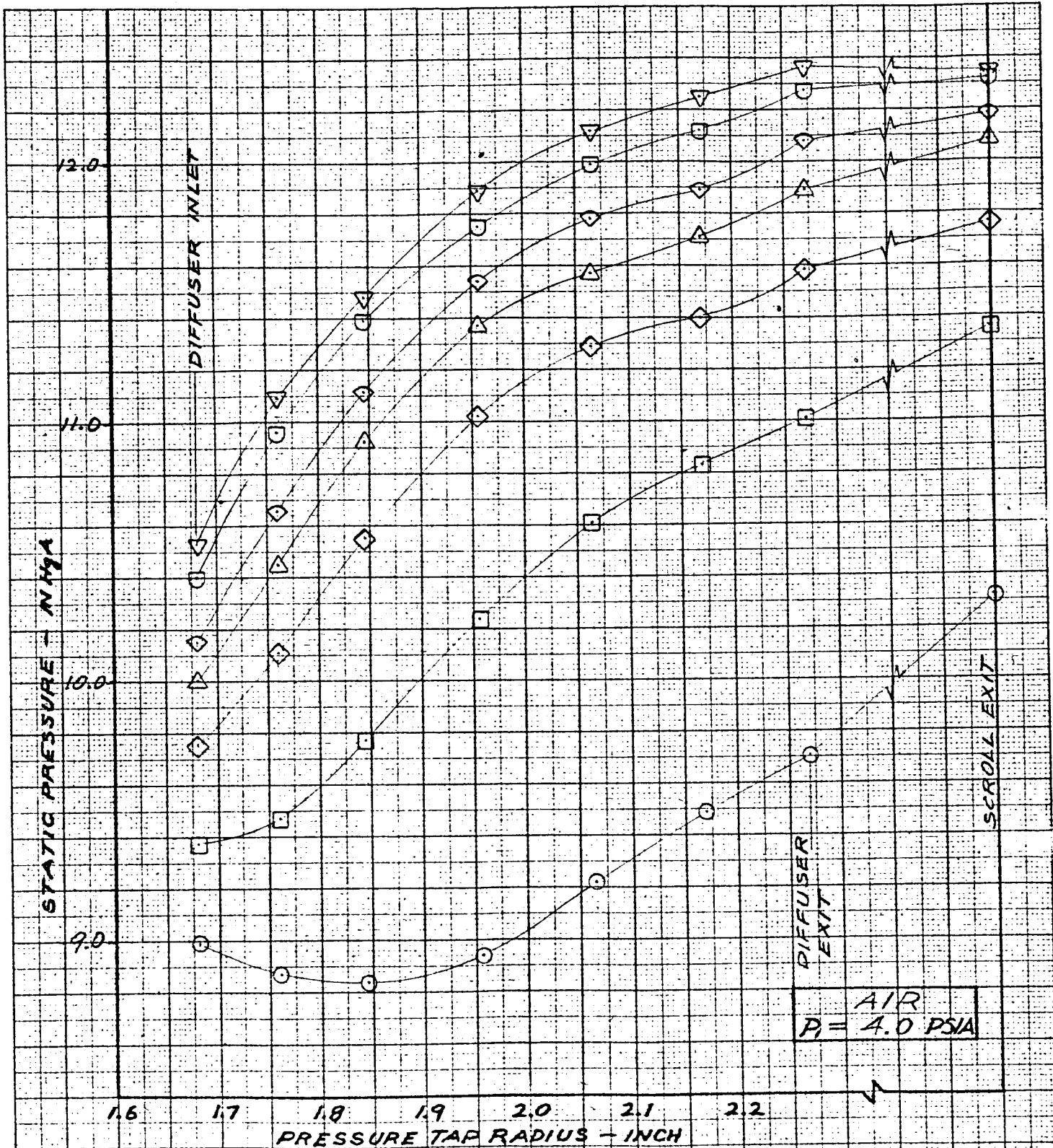


STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION
ALONG DIFFUSER PART 8/1034

$\frac{\partial P}{\partial V} = 80$

DATA PAGE

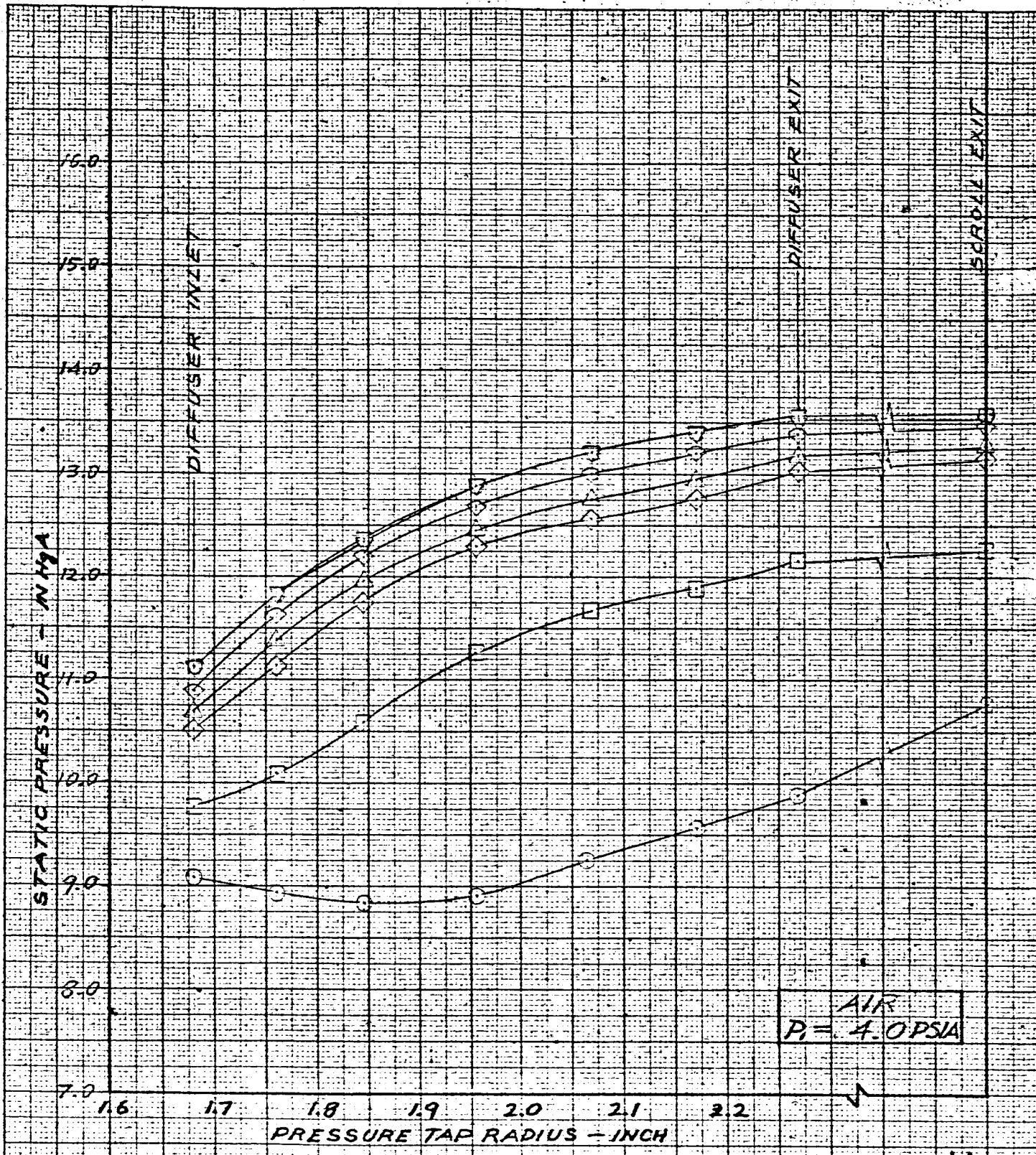
43



CALCULATED BY			$\frac{\partial P}{\partial N} = 90$
TRACED BY	Endyne	4-1-63	
CHECKED BY			
APPROVED BY			
UNIT NO.			LATA FRED -73

STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION
ALONG DIFFUSER PART 871034

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CALCULATED BY	
TRACED BY	Indraji 3-25-63
CHECKED BY	
APPROVED BY	
UNIT NO.	P 5106

STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION
ALONG DIFFUSER PART 87103⁴

$\frac{\rho}{\rho_{\text{ref}}} = 100$
 $\frac{\rho}{\rho_{\text{ref}}} = 100$

DATE ISSUED

43.47

STATIC PRESSURE - INCH

25

20

15

10

1.6 1.7 1.8 1.9 2.0 2.1 2.2
PRESSURE TAP RADIUS - INCH

DIFFUSER TAP

DIFFUSER EXIT

SCROLL EXIT

AIR
 $P_1 = 7.0 \text{ PSIA}$

CALCULATED BY		
TRACED BY	Pud. Mr	4-1-66
CHECKED BY		
APPROVED BY		
UNIT NO.		

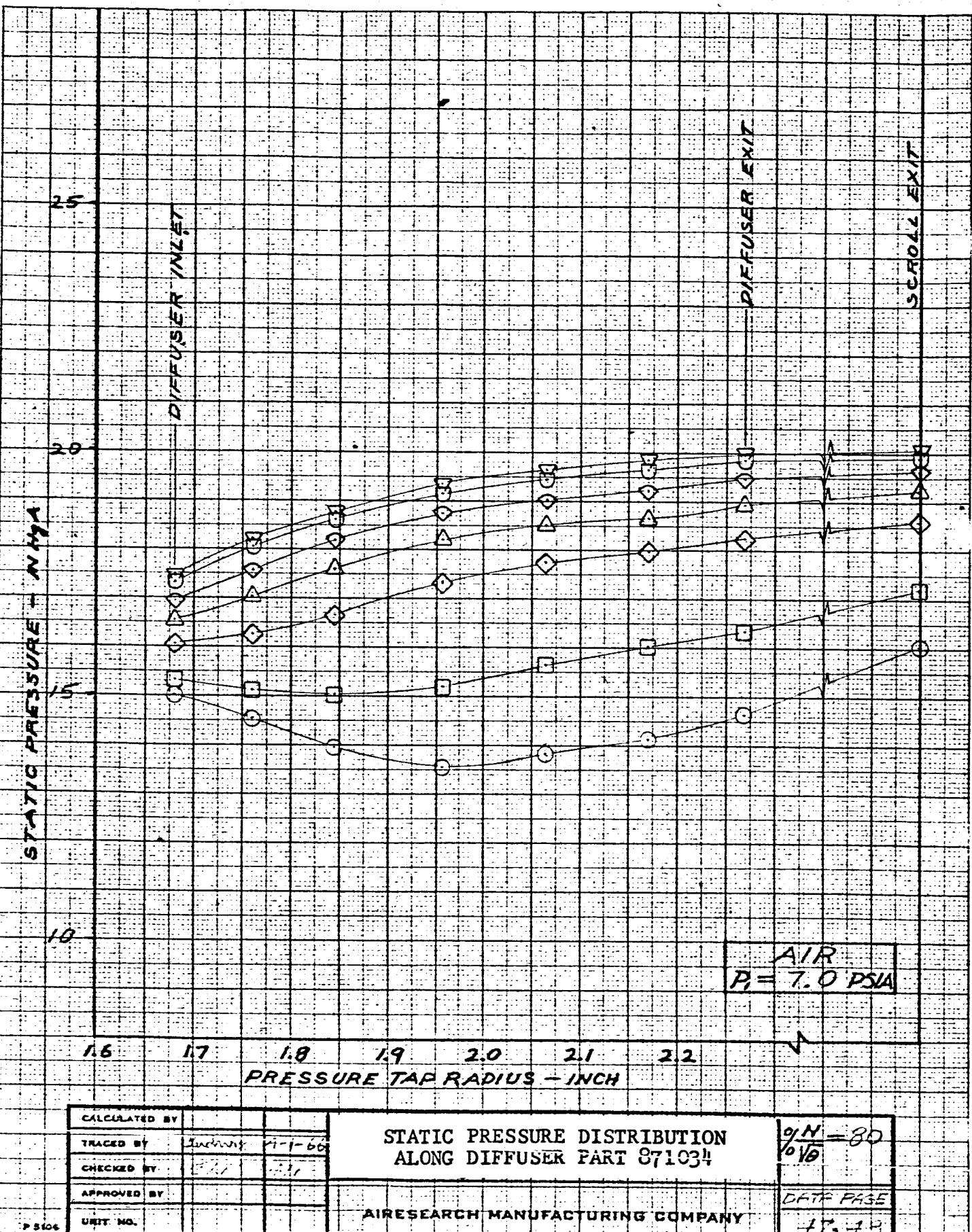
STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION
ALONG DIFFUSER PART 871034

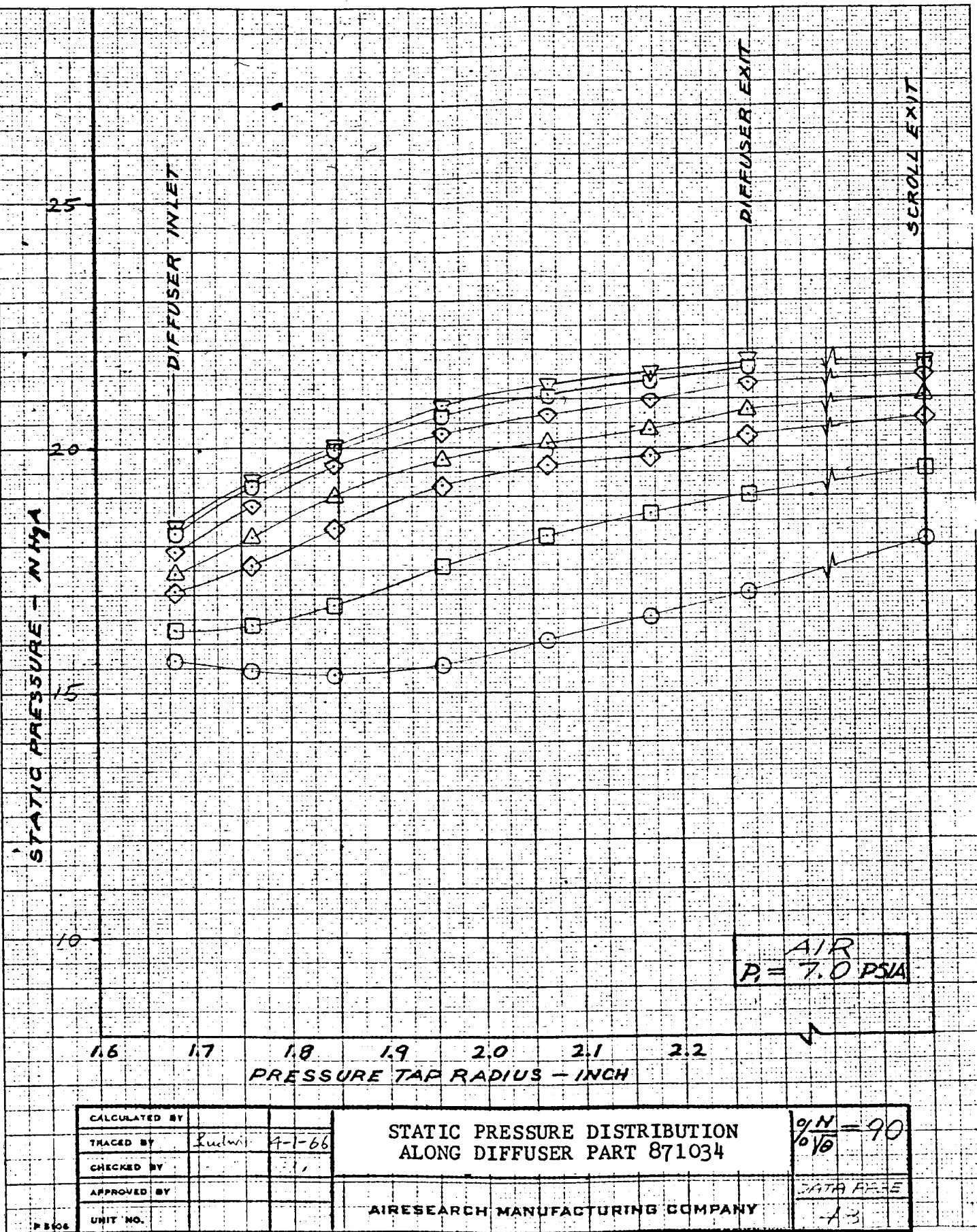
$\frac{\partial P}{\partial r} = 70$	DATA FILE
	X7

P-506

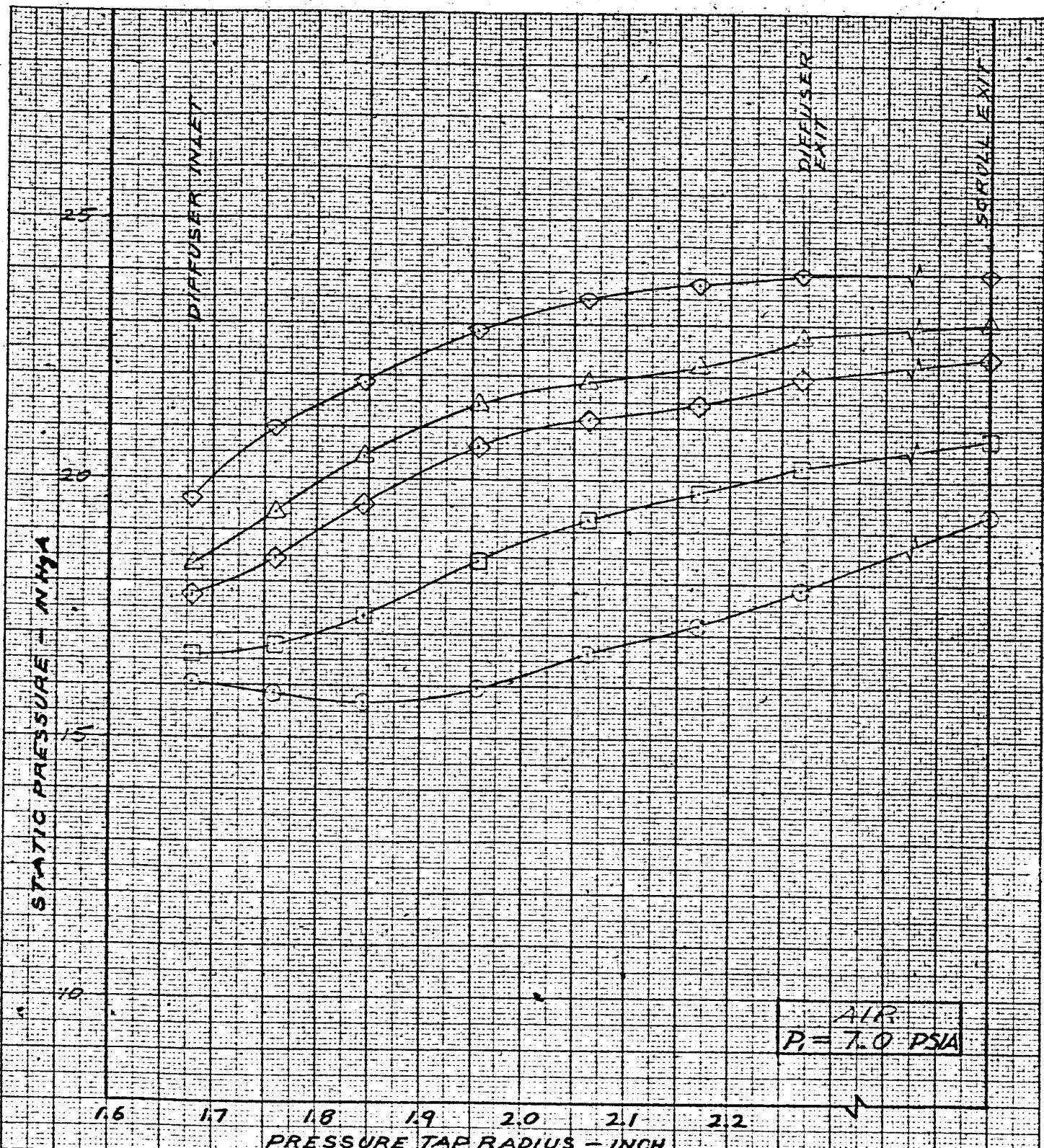
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STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION
ALONG DIFFUSER PART 871034

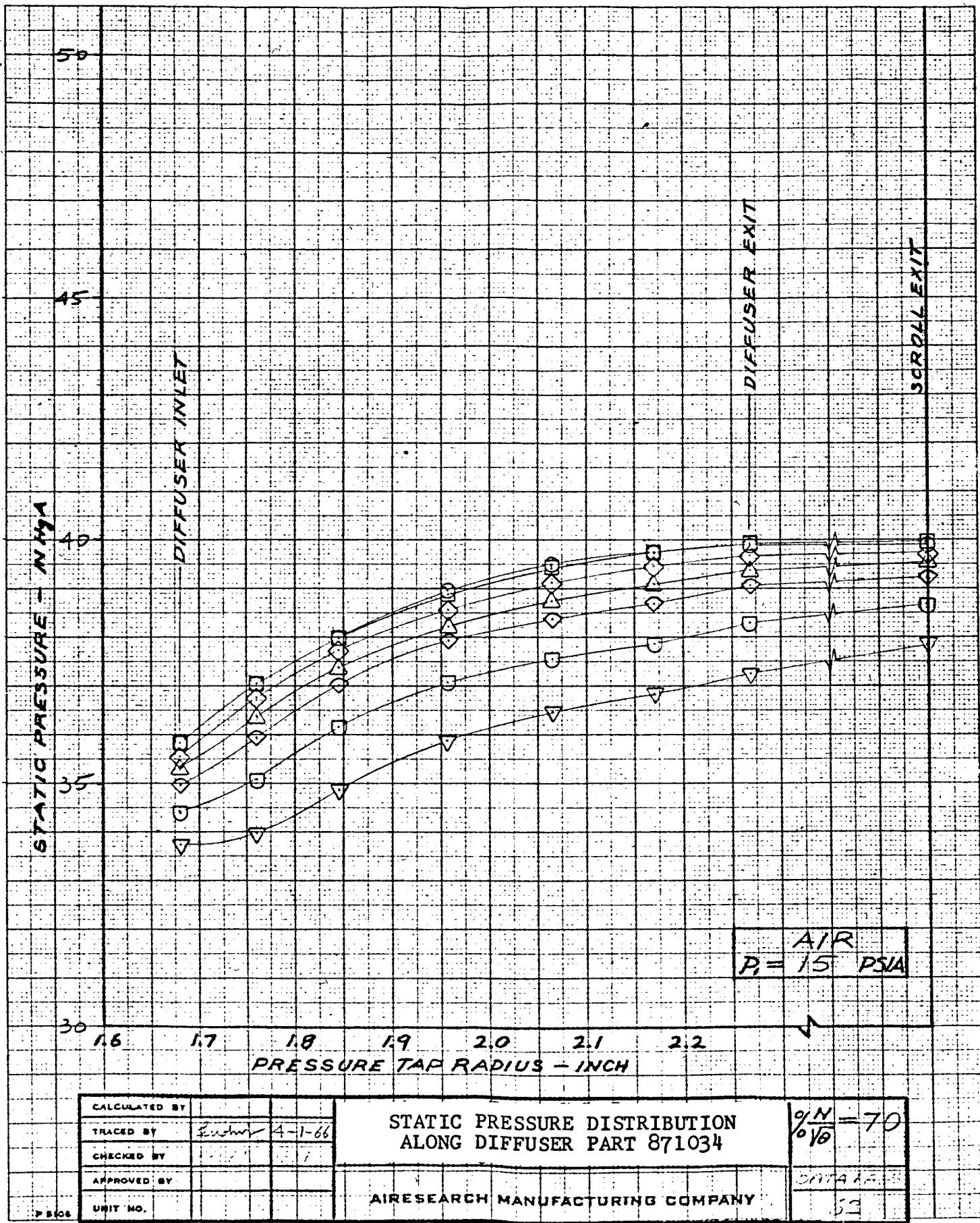
$\frac{\rho N}{V_0} = 100$

DATUM TUBE

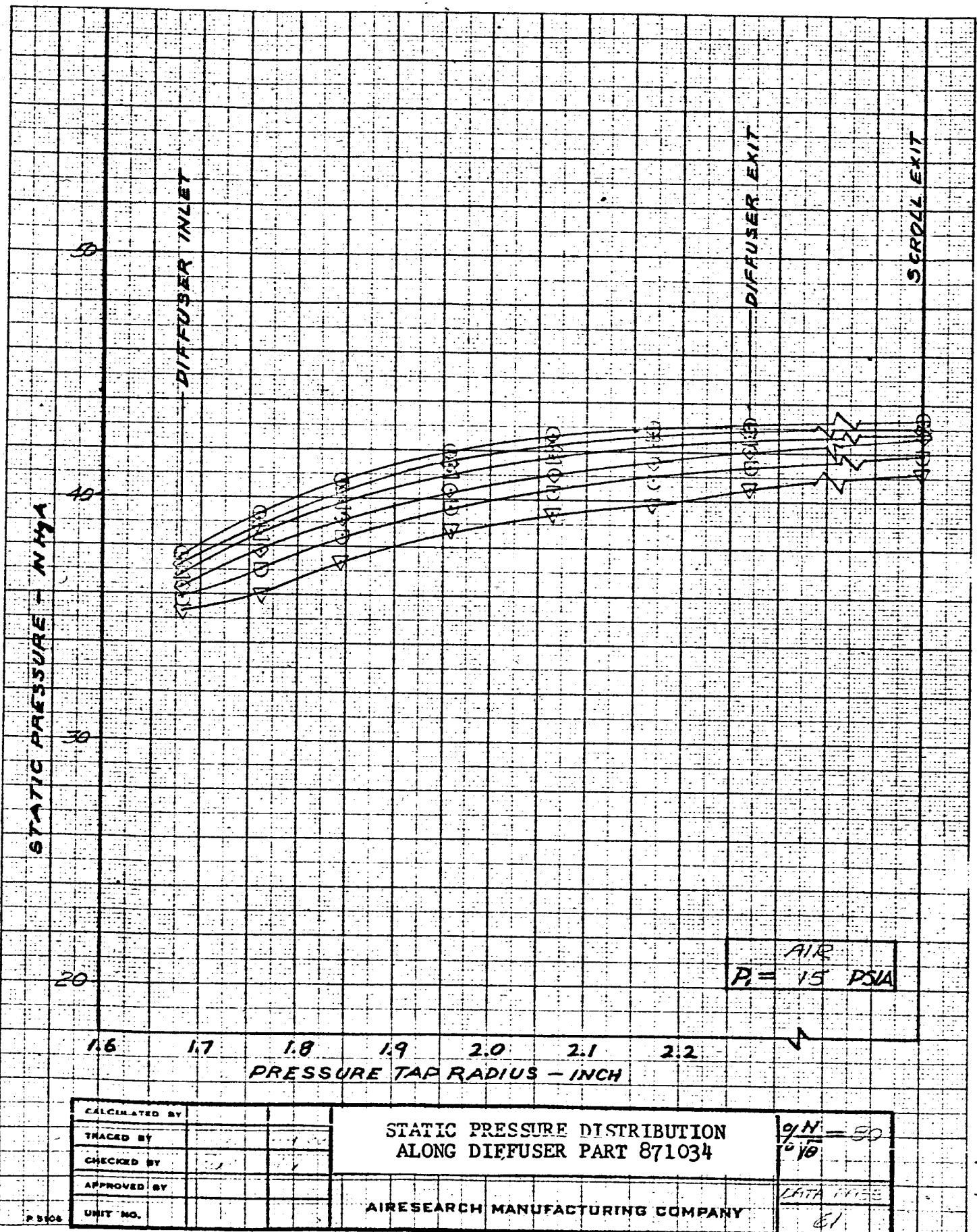
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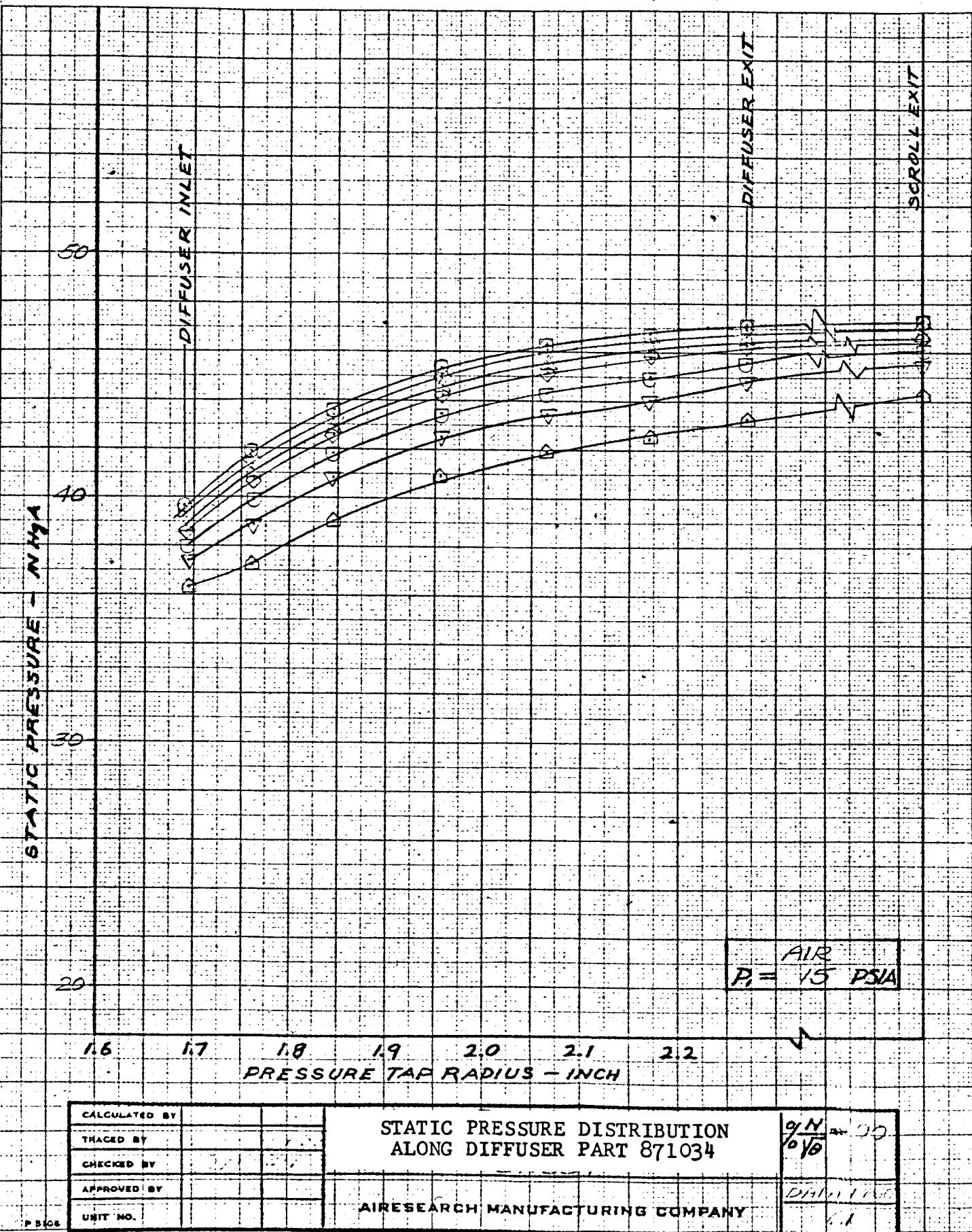
P 5106

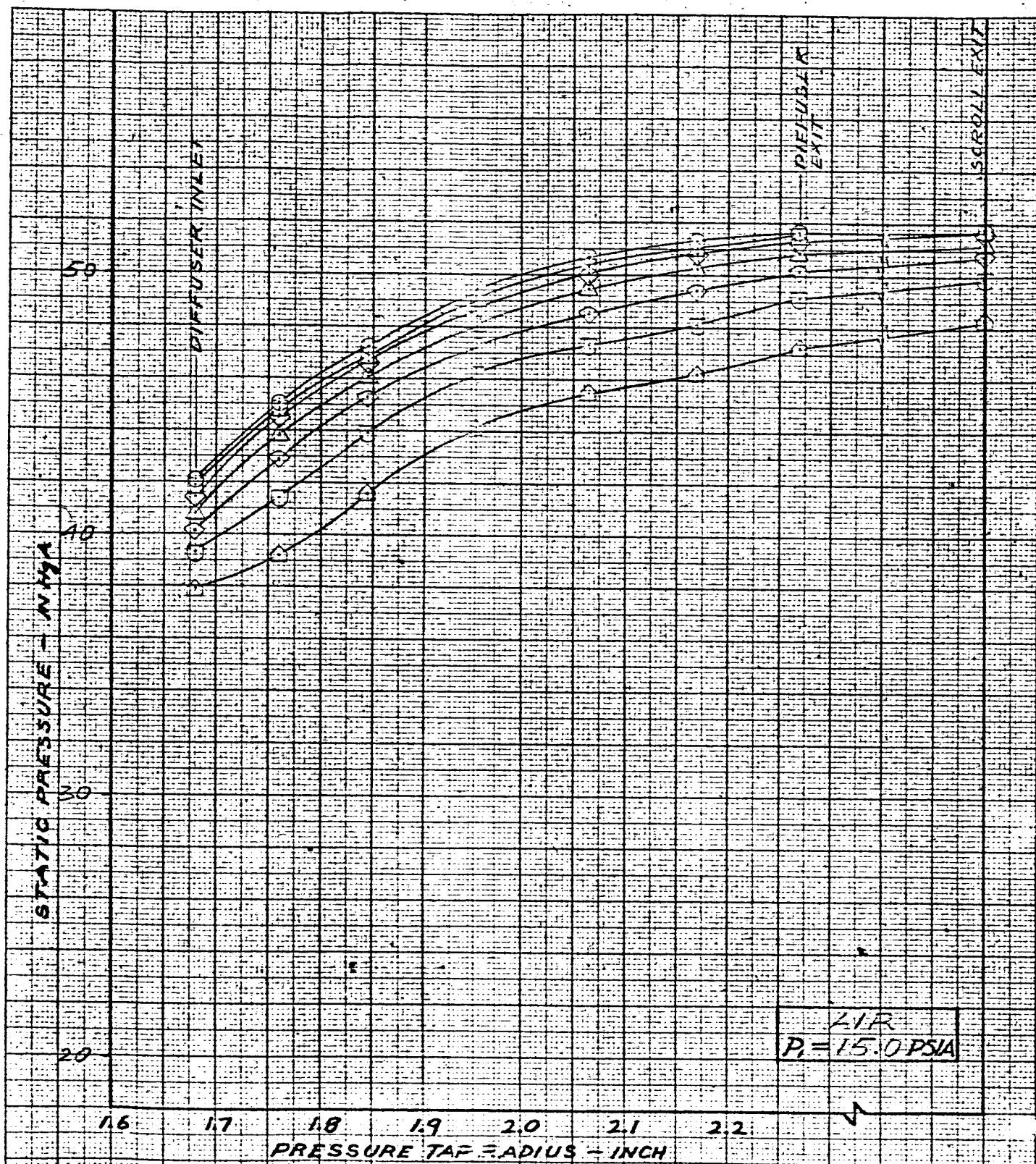
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CALCULATED BY	TRACED BY	3-29-56	STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION ALONG DIFFUSER PART 87103"	$\frac{\partial P}{\partial N} = 1.2$
CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY			$\frac{\partial P}{\partial N} = 1.0$
			AIRESEARCH MANUFACTURING COMPANY	DATA 1-56
PS106				60

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STATIC PRESSURE - INCH

10

60

50

DIFFUSER INLET

DIFFUSER EXIT

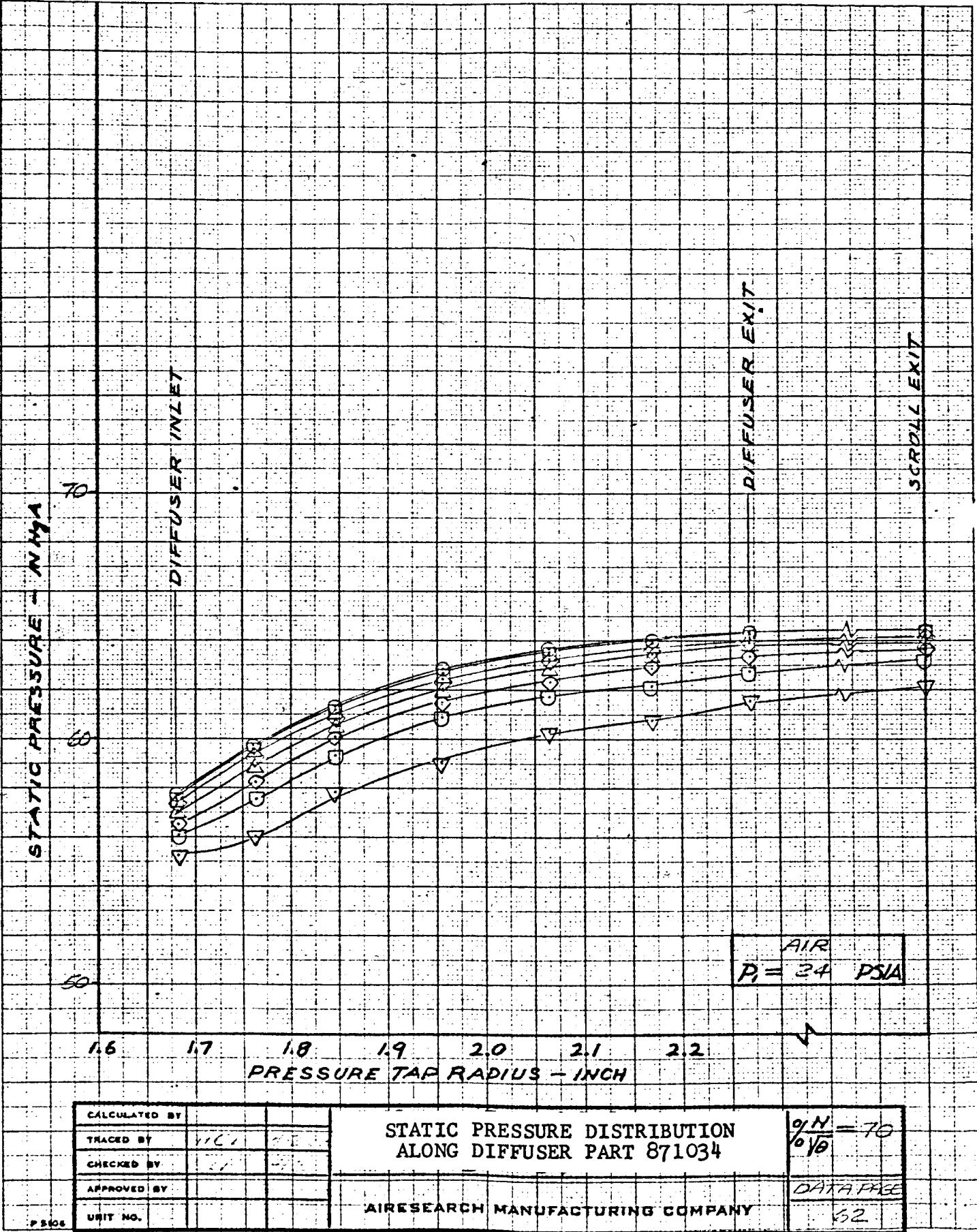
SCROLL EXIT

1.6 1.7 1.8 1.9 2.0 2.1 2.2

PRESSURE TAP RADIUS - INCH

AIR

$P_1 = 34 \text{ PSIA}$

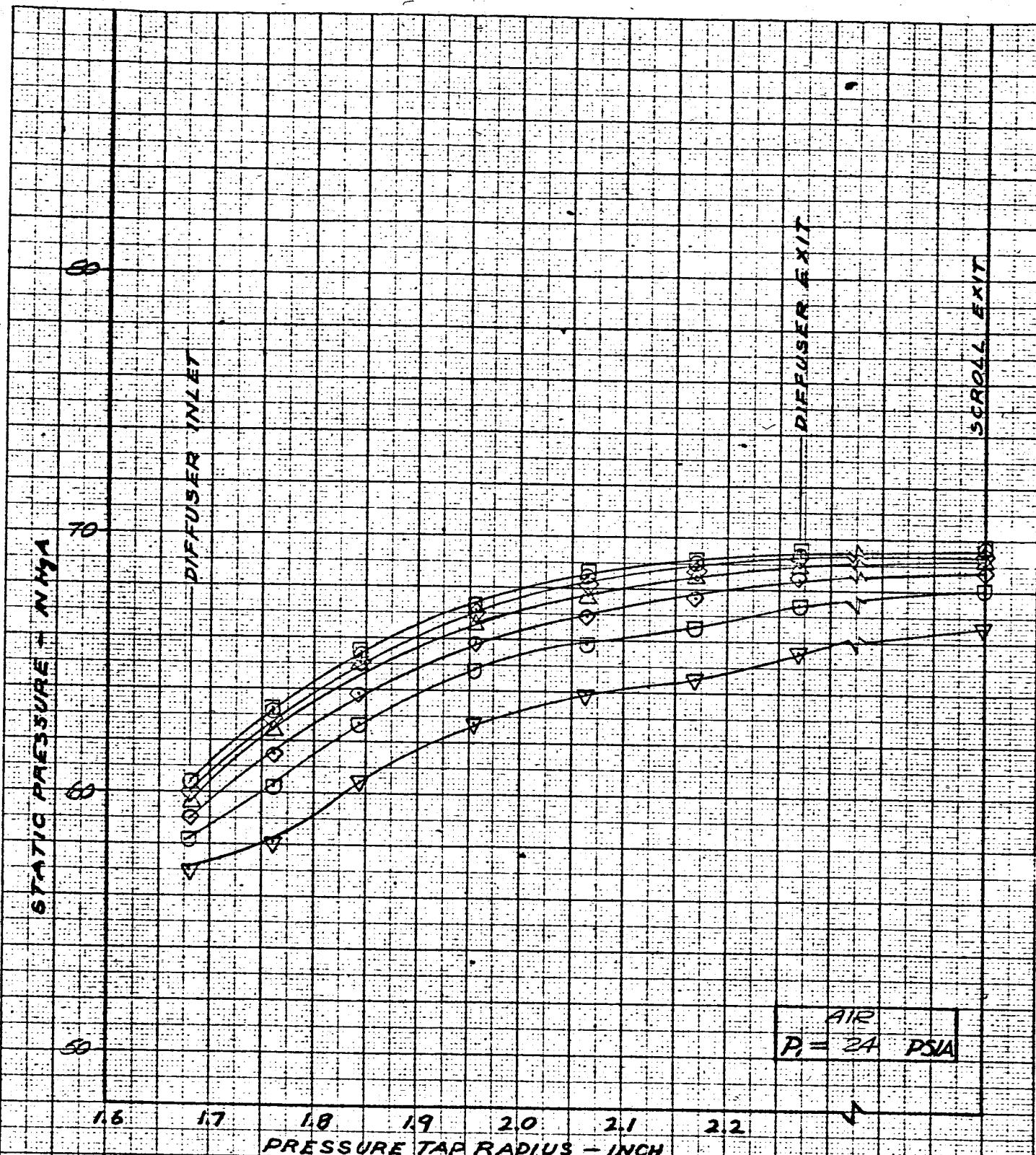


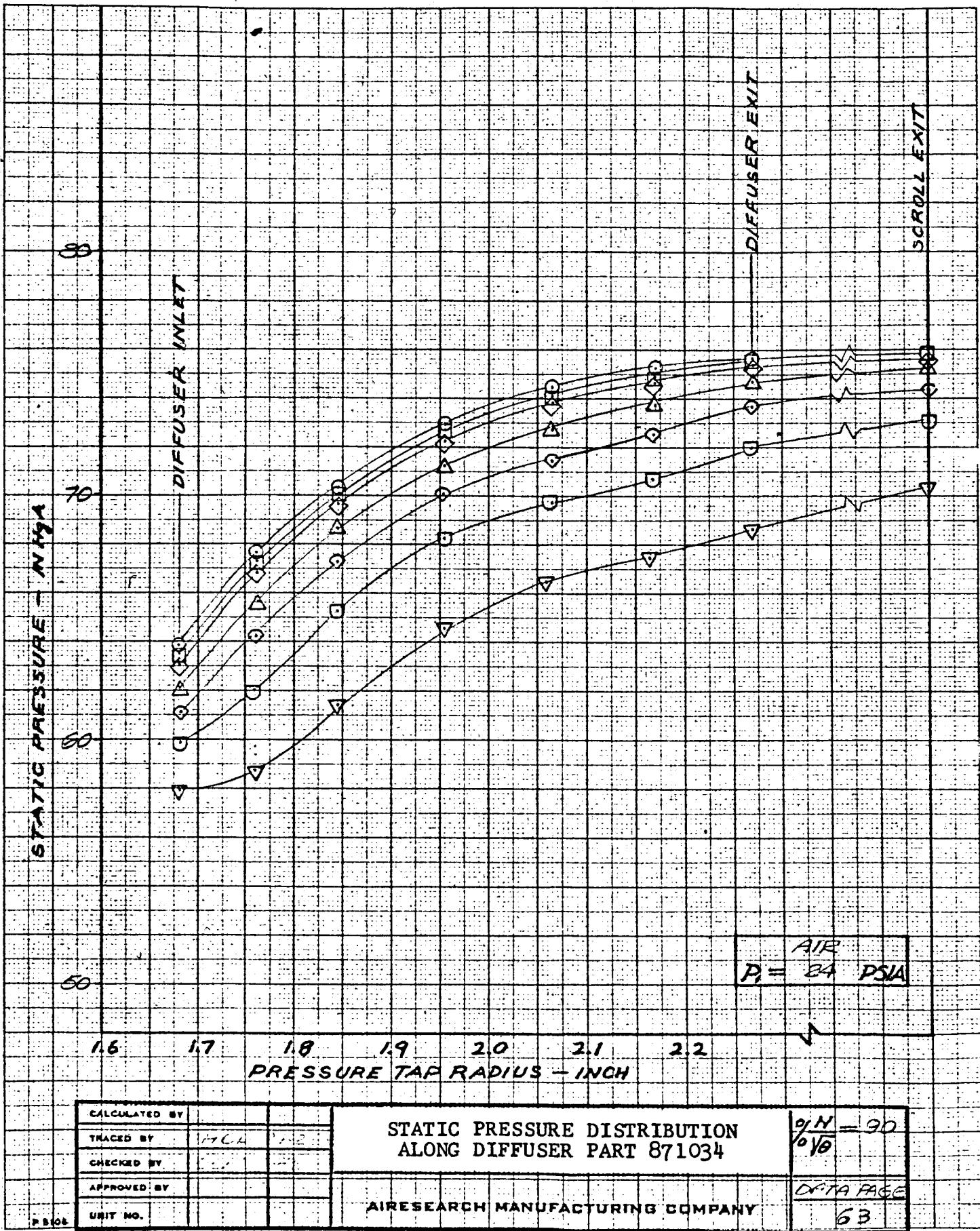
CALCULATED BY	
TRACED BY	V.C.
CHECKED BY	
APPROVED BY	
PSOC	UNIT NO.

STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION
ALONG DIFFUSER PART 871034

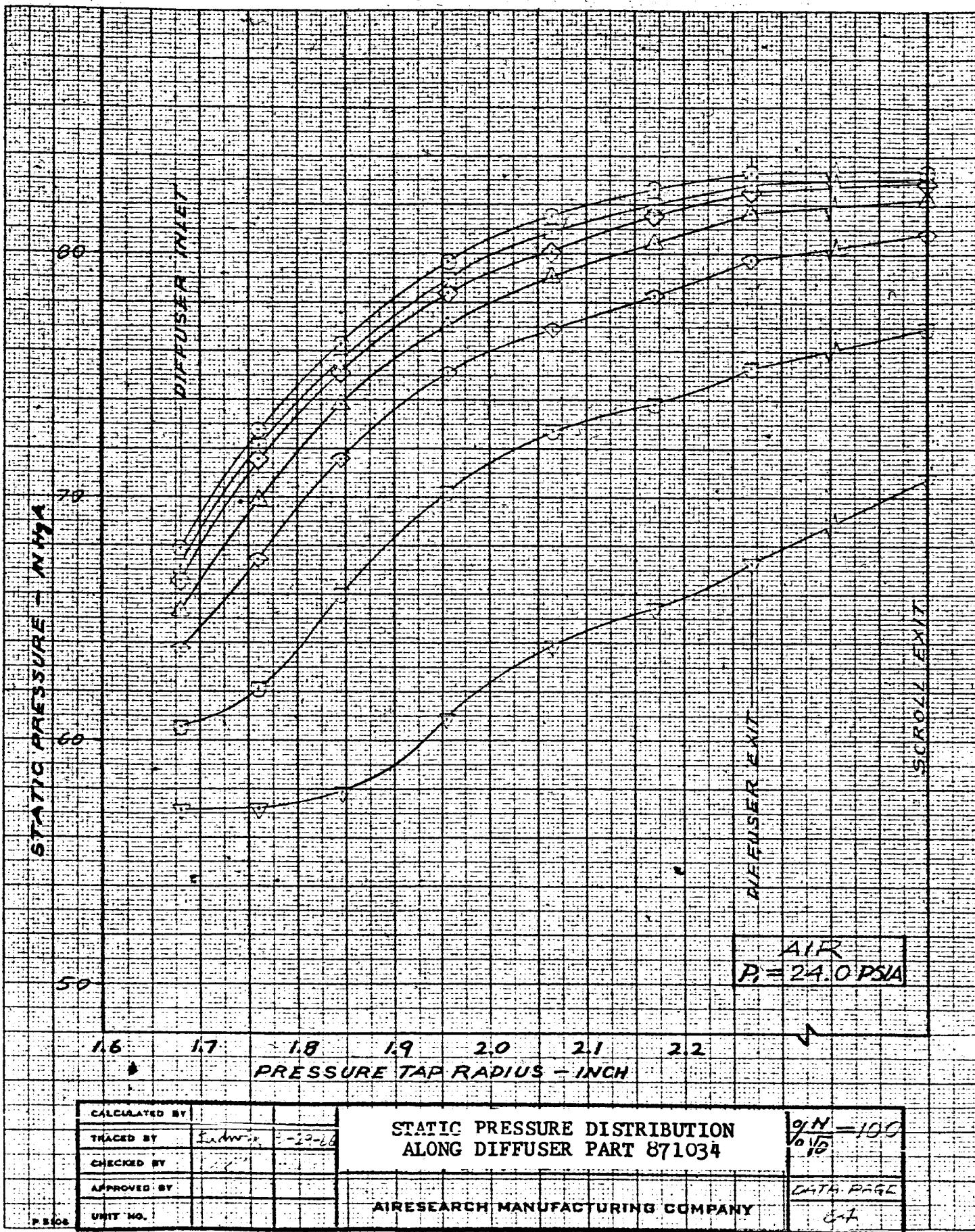
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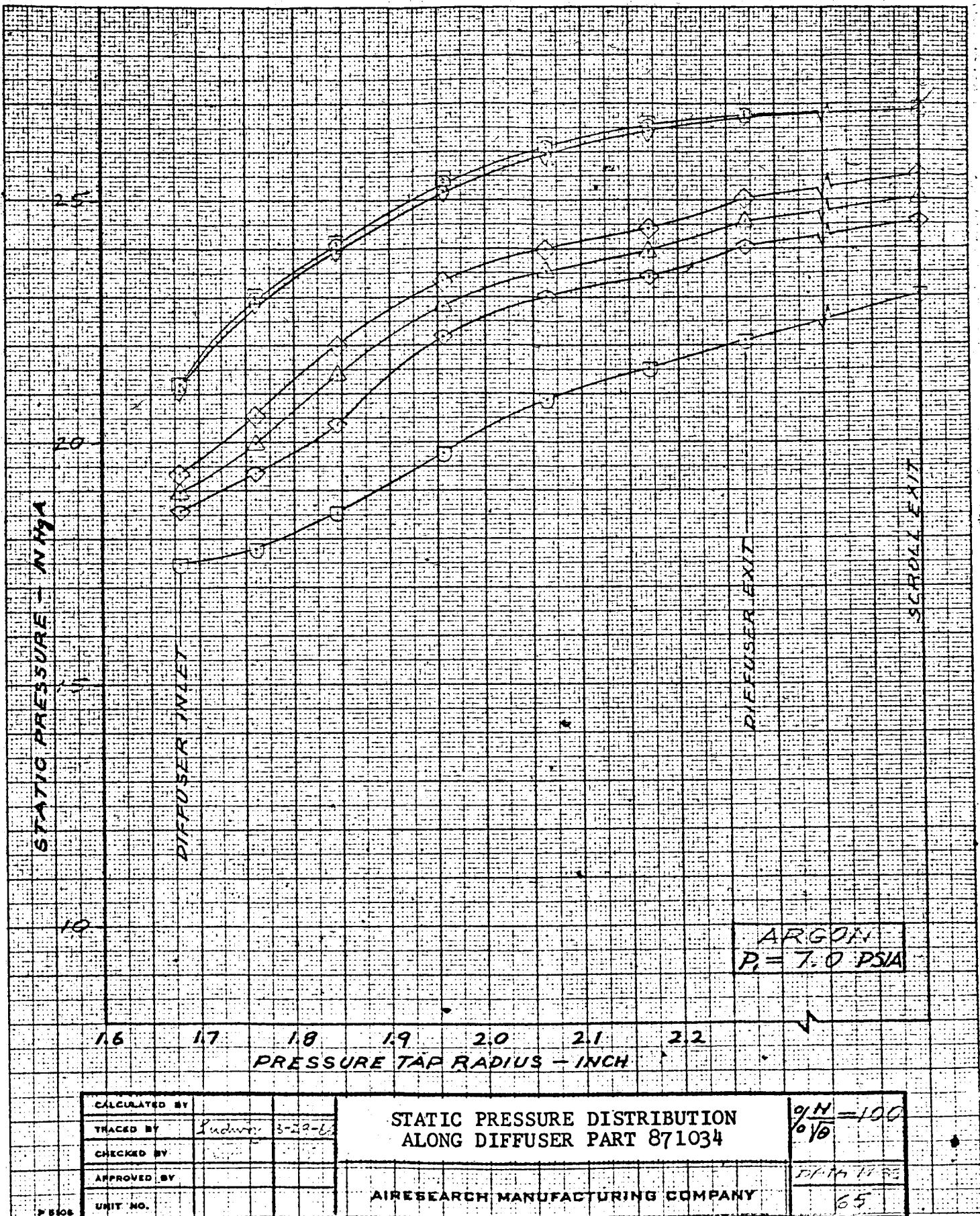
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%V	-
DATA PAGE	62



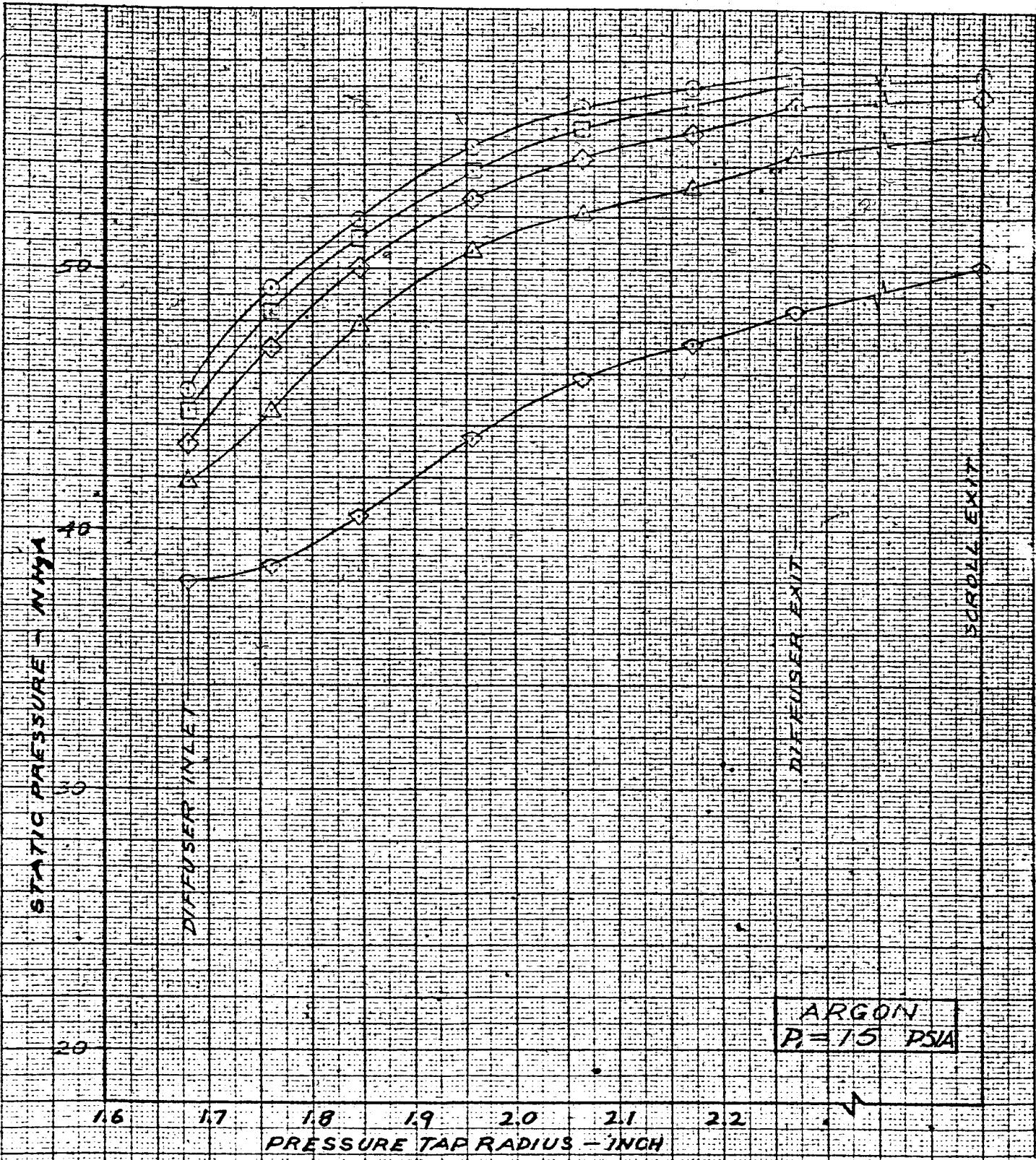


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CALCULATED BY		
TRACED BY	Instrument	3-B074
CHECKED BY		
APPROVED BY		
UNIT NO.		

STATIC PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION
ALONG DIFFUSER PART 871034

% N = 100
% V =

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DATA P: 15

P 8706



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RADIAL FLOW COMPRESSOR

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